E/1987/SR.1-19

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1987

PLENARY MEETINGS

VOLUME I

Summary records of the meetings held during
the organizational session for 1987
and the first regular session of 1987

UNITED NATIONS

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UNITED NATIONS
New York, 1991

NOTE

The *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1987* consist of the summary records of *Plenary Meetings* (volumes I and II), incorporating corrections requested by delegations and any necessary editorial modifications, the *Supplements* (Nos. 1-17) and the *Lists of Delegations*.

The present volume contains the final summary records of the plenary meetings held by the Council during its organizational session for 1987 (New York, 3-6 February) and its first regular session of 1987 (New York, 4-29 May).

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Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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In 1987, the Economic and Social Council was composed of the following fifty-four States: Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guinea, Haiti, Iceland, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zaire and Zimbabwe.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CPC	Committee for Programme and Co-ordination
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
Group of 18	Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency and Financial Functioning of the United Nations
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ILO	International Labour Organisation
INRA	Institute for Natural Resources in Africa
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organization
SADCC	Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference
The Twelve	The States members of the European Community
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNU	United Nations University
WFC	World Food Council
WHO	World Health Organization
WIDER	World Institute for Development Economics Research

AGENDA OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION FOR 1987

Adopted by the Council at its 1st plenary meeting, on 3 February 1987

1. Election of the Bureau
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
3. Basic programme of work of the Council for 1987 and 1988
4. Elections to subsidiary bodies of the Council, appointments, and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions
5. Provisional agenda for the first regular session of 1987 and other organizational matters

AGENDA OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF 1987

Adopted by the Council at its 5th plenary meeting, on 4 May 1987

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
2. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination
3. In-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields
4. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
5. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
6. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
7. Non-governmental organizations
8. United Nations University
9. Transport of dangerous goods
10. Public administration and finance
11. Statistical questions
12. Cartography
13. Transnational corporations
14. Natural resources
15. Desertification and drought
16. Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance
17. Human rights
18. Social development
19. Advancement of women
20. Narcotic drugs
21. Elections and nominations
22. Consideration of the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1987

CHECK LIST OF DOCUMENTS

NOTE. Listed below are the documents pertaining to the work of the Council during its organizational session for 1987 and its first regular session of 1987.

Symbol	*Title or description*	*Agenda item*	*Observations and references*
	Organizational session for 1987		
E/1987/1 and Add.1	Draft basic programme of work of the Council for 1987 and 1988	3	
E/1987/2	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters	2	
E/1987/9	Code of conduct on transnational corporations: report of the Secretary-General	2	
E/1987/10 and Add.1	Appointment of members of the Committee for Development Planning: note by the Secretary-General	4	See 3rd meeting, paras. 7 and 8
E/1987/11 and Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1	Elections to subsidiary bodies of the Council, appointments and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions: note by the Secretary-General	4	*Idem,* paras. 3 to 6 and 9 to 19
E/1987/12	Letter dated 18 December 1986 from the representative of Burma to the Secretary-General	2	See 1st meeting, paras. 26, 34, 37, 38 and 40, 42 and 43, and 4th meeting, paras. 17 to 19
E/1987/14	Letter dated 3 February 1987 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General	2	*Idem,* 4th meeting, paras. 14 to 16
E/1987/INF/1	Calendar of conferences and meetings for 1987: note by the Secretariat		
E/1987/INF/2 and Corr.1	Resolution and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its organizational session for 1987		For the printed text see *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1987, Supplement No. 1* (E/1987/87), resolution 1987/1 and decisions 1987/101-1987/112
E/1987/INF/3	List of delegations		
E/1987/L.10	Mandate of the present members of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities: Bangladesh, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Jamaica, Morocco, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Uruguay and Venezuela: draft decision	4	See 3rd meeting, paras. 3 to 6
E/1987/L.11	Cycle of meetings of the Commission on Transnational Corporations: United States of America: draft resolution	2	See 4th meeting, paras. 20 to 43
E/1987/L.12	Commemoration of the adoption of the International Covenants on Human Rights: Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Egypt, Jamaica, Mongolia, Morocco, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan and Venezuela: draft resolution	3	*Idem,* para. 44
E/1987/L.13	In-depth study of the United Nations structure and functions in the economic and social fields: text of decision 1987/112, adopted by the Council at its 4th meeting, on 6 February 1987	2	For the printed text, see E/1987/87 at the end of the present list
E/1987/L.14	Proclamation of an international literacy year: Bangladesh, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Panama, Peru, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam	3	See 4th meeting, para. 45
E/1987/SR.1 to 4	Provisional summary records of the 1st to 4th plenary meetings held by the Council during its organizational session for 1987		The final texts of the records are to be found in the present volume
E/1987/WP.1	Review of recurrent and other documentation to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council in 1987: note by the Secretariat	3	
	First regular session of 1987[*]		
A/41/509	Status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: report of the Secretary-General	5 and 6	

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[*] For the documents of the Council from 1984 and 1986 relating to the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its first session, as well as for the documents of that Committee, see E/1987/28, annex III.

Symbol	*Title or description*	*Agenda item*	*Observations and references*
A/41/510	Reporting obligations of States parties to United Nations Conventions on Human Rights: report of the Secretary-General	2, 4, 5 and 6	
A/41/551	Report of the Secretary-General prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/22 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/2	2	
A/CONF.133/PC/10 and Corr.1	Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its second session as Preparatory Body for the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	20	
E/1986/25-E/AC.57/1986/9	Report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control on its ninth session	18	*Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1986, Supplement No. 5*
E/1987/6	Developments concerning national family policies: report of the Secretary-General	18	
E/1987/7-A/42/56	National experience in promoting the co-operative movement: report of the Secretary-General	18	
E/1987/8-A/42/57	National experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress: report of the Secretary-General	18	
E/1987/13	Follow-up to the public hearings on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia: report of the Secretary-General	13	
E/1987/15-E/CN.6/1987/6	Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its 1987 session (12-16 January 1987)	19	*Ibid., 1987, Supplement No. 2*
E/1987/17-E/CN.7/1987/18	Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its thirty-second session (2-11 February 1987)	20	*Ibid., Supplement No. 4*
E/1987/18-E/CN.4/1987/60 and Corr.1	Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its forty-third session (2 February-13 March 1987)	17	*Ibid., Supplement No. 5* and corrigendum
E/1987/19-E/CN.3/1987/26	Report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-fourth session (23 February-4 March 1987)	11	*Ibid., Supplement No. 6*
E/1987/20-E/CN.5/1987/15	Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirtieth session (23 February-4 March 1987)	18	*Ibid., Supplement No. 7*
E/1987/21-E/C.7/1987/11	Report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its tenth session (6-25 April 1987)	14	*Ibid., Supplement No. 8*
E/1987/22-E/C.10/1987/16	Report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its thirteenth session (7-16 April 1987)	13	*Ibid., Supplement No. 9*
E/1987/26	Report of the Council of the United Nations University on the work of the University in 1986	8	See 10th meeting, paras. 4 to 17, and 12th meeting, paras. 23 and 24
E/1987/27	Summary of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1986	20	For the report, see United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.XI.2
E/1987/28-E/C.12/1987/5	Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its first session (9-27 March 1987)		*Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1987, Supplement No. 17*
E/1987/29 and Add.1-3	Report of the Secretary-General prepared in accordance with paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 41/94 and paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 39/16	2	
E/1987/30	Annotated provisional agenda for the first regular session of 1987	1	
E/1987/31 and Add.1	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination: report of the Secretary-General	2	
E/1987/32	Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations	7	The report contains a list of the documents that the Committee had before it in 1987
E/1987/37	Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: report of the Secretary-General	9	
E/1987/38 and Add.1	Public administration and finance matters: report of the Secretary-General	10	
E/1987/39	Eleventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific: report of the Secretary-General	12	
E/1987/39/Add.1 and Corr.1 and 2	Programme budget implications of the recommendations contained in paragraph 24 of document E/1987/39: statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council	12	
E/1987/40	Report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its reconvened special session (6 April 1987)	13	
E/1987/41	Co-ordination and information in the field of youth: report of the Secretary-General	18	
E/1987/42	Improvement of the work of the Commission for Social Development: report of the Secretary-General	18	
E/1987/43	Review of the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice: report of the Secretary-General	18	
E/1987/44	Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its seventh session	19	

Symbol	*Title or description*	*Agenda item*	*Observations and references*
E/1987/45 and Add.1	Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women: note by the Secretary-General	21	See 16th meeting, paras. 5 to 9
E/1987/49	Letter dated 12 February 1987 from the representative of Vanuatu to the President of the Economic and Social Council	16	See E/1987/96
E/1987/54	International campaign against traffic in drugs: note by the Secretariat	20	
E/1987/58	Human rights: note by the Secretary-General	17	
E/1987/59	Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: note by the Secretary-General	6	Contains the ninth report of ILO under article 18 of the Covenant
E/1987/66	Training course for legislative draftsmen to be organized in New York in 1987: note by the Secretary-General	2	
E/1987/67	Appointment to fill a casual vacancy in the membership of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women: note by the Secretary-General	21	See 16th meeting, para. 9
E/1987/70	Allegations regarding infringements of trade union rights: note by the Secretariat	17	
E/1987/73	Letter dated 30 April 1987 from the representative of Mexico to the Secretary-General	13	
E/1987/75	Applications for hearings by non-governmental organizations: report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations	17, 18, 19 and 20	
E/1987/90	Report of the First (Economic) Committee	10	See 17th meeting, paras. 25 to 27
E/1987/91	*Idem*	11	See 14th meeting, paras. 35 to 40
E/1987/92	*Idem*	12	See 17th meeting, paras. 28 to 31
E/1987/93	*Idem*	13	*Idem*, paras. 32 to 45
E/1987/94	*Idem*	14	See 14th meeting, paras. 41 to 44
E/1987/95	*Idem*	15	*Idem*, paras. 45 to 47
E/1987/96	*Idem*	16	*Idem*, paras. 48 to 55
E/1987/97	Report of the Second (Social) Committee	17	See 18th meeting, paras. 2 to 49
E/1987/98 and Add.1	*Idem*	18	See 17th meeting, paras. 4 to 20, and 18th meeting, para. 1
E/1987/99	*Idem*	19	See 14th meeting, paras. 56 to 75, and 17th meeting, paras. 1 to 3
E/1987/102	*Idem*	20	See 14th meeting, paras. 76 to 87
E/1987/104-A/41/989	Letter dated 22 May 1987 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General	17	
E/1987/105	Note verbale dated 6 May 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Somalia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General	22	See 19th meeting, para. 20
E/1987/106-A/41/991	Letter dated 26 May 1987 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General	17	
E/1987/C.1/CRP.1	Special Action Programme for Public Administration and Management	10	
E/1987/C.1/L.1	Assistance for reconstruction in Vanuatu: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman of the First (Economic) Committee on the basis of informal consultations	16	See E/1987/96
E/1987/C.1/L.2	Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda: Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Italy, Kenya, Morocco, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda: draft resolution	15	See E/1987/95
E/1987/C.1/L.3	Assistance to El Salvador: Argentina, Brazil, Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela: draft resolution	16	See E/1987/96
E/1987/C.1/L.4	Eleventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific: draft decision submitted by the Chairman of the First (Economic) Committee	12	See E/1987/92
E/1987/C.1/L.5	Indicative patterns of consumption: qualitative indicators of development: Morocco: draft resolution	11	See E/1987/91
E/1987/C.1/L.6	Assistance to Ecuador: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Spain, Suriname, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela: draft resolution	16	See E/1987/96
E/1987/C.1/L.7	Public administration and finance for development: Bangladesh, India and Somalia: draft resolution	10	See E/1987/90

Symbol	*Title or description*	*Agenda item*	*Observations and references*
E/1987/C.1/L.8	Declaration on Local Self-Government: draft decision submitted by the Chairman of the First (Economic) Committee on the basis of informal consultations	10	*Idem*
E/1987/C.2/CRP.1	Proposed organization of work of the Second (Social) Committee: note by the Chairman of the Committee		
E/1987/C.2/L.1	Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and Caribbean Region: Argentina, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela: draft resolution	20	See E/1987/102
E/1987/C.2/L.2	Preparations for the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking: Australia, Bahamas, Brunei Darussalam, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Federal Republic of, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela and Yugoslavia: draft decision	20	*Idem*
E/1987/C.2/L.3	International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women: Argentina, Austria, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zaire: draft resolution	19	See E/1987/99
E/1987/C.2/L.4	Observance of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Development Fund for Women: Colombia, German Democratic Republic, India, Kenya and Norway: draft resolution	19	*Idem*
E/1987/C.2/L.5 and Corr.1	Co-ordination and information in the field of youth: Bangladesh, Bolivia, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Djibouti, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Morocco, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Spain, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Uruguay, Yugoslavia and Zaire: draft resolution	18	See E/1987/98/Add.1
E/1987/C.2/L.5/Rev.1	________ *[same sponsors]*, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Oman, Pakistan, Panama and Sri Lanka: revised draft resolution	18	*Idem*
E/1987/C.2/L.6	Improvement of the work of the Commission for Social Development: Argentina and Poland: draft resolution	18	See E/1987/98
E/1987/C.2/L.7	World social situation: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: draft resolution	18	See E/1987/98/Add.1
E/1987/C.2/L.8	Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging: Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Senegal, Uruguay, Yugoslavia and Zaire: amendment to draft resolution VII contained in document E/1987/20	18	See E/1987/98
E/1987/C.2/L.9	Preparations for the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders: Canada, Italy, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Yugoslavia: amendments to draft resolution IV contained in document E/1986/25	18	*Idem*
E/1987/C.2/L.10	Review of the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Haiti, Italy, Philippines and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution	18	See E/1987/98/Add.1
E/1987/C.2/L.10/Rev.1	________ *[same sponsors]*, Austria, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, France, Greece, Indonesia, Spain and Uruguay: revised draft resolution	18	*Idem*
E/1987/C.2/L.11	United States of America: amendments to the draft resolution contained in document E/1987/C.2/L.5	18	*Idem*
E/1987/C.2/L.12	Right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation: Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Fiji, Gambia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Zaire: draft decision	17	See E/1987/97
E/1987/C.2/L.13	Use of mercenaries as a means to violate human rights and to impede the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination: Afghanistan, Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Bulgaria, Congo, Cuba, Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, India, Lesotho, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe: draft resolution	17	*Idem*

Symbol	*Title or description*	*Agenda item*	*Observations and references*
E/1987/C.2/L.14	Realization of the right to adequate housing: Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Poland, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam: draft resolution	17	*Idem*
E/1987/C.2/L.15	National institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights: Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Finland, India, Iraq, Nigeria, Philippines, Senegal and Sri Lanka: draft decision	17	*Idem*
E/1987/C.2/L.16	Infringements of trade union rights in South Africa: Guinea on behalf of the African States: draft resolution	17	*Idem*
E/1987/INF/4 and Rev.1	List of delegations		
E/1987/INF/5 and Corr.1 and 2	Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1987		For the printed text, see *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1987, Supplement No. 1* (E/1987/87), resolutions 1987/2-1987/64 and decisions 1987/113-1987/159
E/1987/L.1	Election of members of the functional commissions of the Council: note by the Secretary-General	21	See 15th meeting, paras. 1 to 15 and 38 to 45
E/1987/L.2	Election of 17 members of the Commission on Transnational Corporations: note by the Secretary-General	21	*Idem,* paras. 16 to 18
E/1987/L.3	Election of 21 members of the Commission on Human Settlements: note by the Secretary-General	21	*Idem,* paras. 33 to 37
E/1987/L.4	Election of 16 members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme: note by the Secretary-General	21	See 16th meeting, paras. 1 to 4
E/1987/L.5	Election of 10 members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund: note by the Secretary-General	21	See 15th meeting, paras. 46 to 49
E/1987/L.6	Election of 21 members of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting: note by the Secretary-General	21	*Idem,* paras. 19 to 22
E/1987/L.7	Election of five members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes: note by the Secretary-General	21	*Idem,* paras. 23 to 26
E/1987/L.8	Nomination of seven members of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination: note by the Secretary-General	21	*Idem,* paras. 30 to 32
E/1987/L.9	Nomination of 12 members of the World Food Council: note by the Secretary-General	21	*Idem,* paras. 27 to 29
E/1987/L.15	Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its first session	6	Preliminary version of the report; for the final version, see E/1987/28
E/1987/L.16	Organization of the work of the session: note by the Bureau	1	
E/1987/L.17 and Rev.1	State of preparedness of documentation for the session: note by the Secretariat	1	
E/1987/L.18	Rules of procedure of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award: note by the Secretariat	1	
E/1987/L.19	Proclamation of the international literacy year: note by the Secretariat	1 and 6	See 14th meeting, paras. 33 and 34
E/1987/L.20	Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its sixth session	4	Preliminary version; for the final version, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/42/38)
E/1987/L.23	Guinea on behalf of the African States: draft resolution	2	See 14th meeting, paras. 1 to 6
E/1987/L.24	International Covenants on Human Rights: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and German Democratic Republic: draft resolution	5 and 6	See 10th meeting, para. 2
E/1987/L.24/Rev.1	________[*same sponsors*], Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Hungary, Norway and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: revised draft resolution	5 and 6	See 14th meeting, paras. 27 to 29
E/1987/L.25	Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guinea, Italy, Jamaica, Norway, Philippines, Senegal, Spain and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution	6	See 10th meeting, para. 3, and 14th meeting, paras. 30 to 32
E/1987/L.26	Improving the ability of the Commission on the Status of Women to carry out its mandate: programme budget implications of draft resolution V contained in document E/1987/15: statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council	19	
E/1987/L.27	Australia, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Greece, Iceland, Norway, Panama, Portugal, Rwanda, Spain and Sweden: draft resolution	4	See 11th meeting, paras. 1 and 2, and 14th meeting, paras. 7 to 16

Symbol	*Title or description*	*Agenda item*	*Observations and references*
E/1987/L.28	Consideration of the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1987: note by the Secretariat	22	
E/1987/L.29	Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Belgium, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution	9	*Idem*, 14th meeting, paras. 90 and 91, and 17th meeting, paras. 21 to 24
E/1987/L.30	In-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields: draft resolution submitted by the President of the Council on the basis of informal consultations	3	See 19th meeting, paras. 1 to 19
E/1987/NGO/1	Statement submitted by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category I	13	
E/1987/NGO/2	Statement submitted by the Society for International Development, a non-governmental organization in consultative status, category I	17	
E/1987/SR.5-19	Provisional summary records of the 5th to 19th plenary meetings held by the Council during its first regular session of 1987		The final texts of the records are to be found in the present volume

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Symbol	*Title or description*	*Agenda item*	*Observations and references*
A/41/49	Report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations		*Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49*
A/42/3/Rev.1	Report of the Economic and Social Council for the year 1987		*Ibid., Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 3*
E/1987/87	Resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council (organizational session for 1987 and first regular session of 1987)		*Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1987, Supplement No. 1*

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION FOR 1987

Summary records of the 1st to 4th plenary meetings, held at Headquarters, New York, from 3 to 6 February 1987

1st meeting

Tuesday, 3 February 1987, at 10.50 a.m.

Temporary President: Mr. Manuel DOS SANTOS (Mozambique)

President: Mr. Eugeniusz NOWORYTA (Poland)

E/1987/SR.1

Opening of the session

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT declared open the organizational session of the Economic and Social Council for 1987.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Election of the Bureau

2. Mr. SCHUMANN (German Democratic Republic), speaking on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, nominated Mr. Eugeniusz Noworyta (Poland) for the office of President.

Mr. Noworyta (Poland) was elected President by acclamation.

Mr. Noworyta (Poland) took the Chair.

3. The PRESIDENT said that recent scientific and technological developments had led to an increased interdependence among countries and a greater awareness of the impact that national policies and actions could have on distant parts of the globe. Accordingly, the United Nations and its main bodies must view global problems in their political context and adopt a comprehensive approach to the problems of individual countries. The Organization should fully utilize every available opportunity to curb the arms race and promote disarmament in order to be able to tackle economic and social problems. The multifaceted activities of the Economic and Social Council afforded a good opportunity for strengthening peaceful coexistence and international co-operation.

4. Although the current world economic situation was not encouraging, decisions taken in 1986 by the General Assembly and by the Economic and Social Council constituted proof of what the United Nations could achieve in the economic and social spheres. The activities of the regional commissions were also important in that regard.

5. He drew attention to General Assembly resolution 41/213, in which the Assembly had decided that the Economic and Social Council should carry out the in-depth study of the intergovernmental structure in the economic and social fields called for in recommendation 8 (see A/41/49) of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations (Group of 18). He urged the Council to take decisions during the current session which would allow it to begin that task, but cautioned that improving the organizational structure and functioning of the United Nations ought to be viewed not as an end in itself but as a means to a more efficient achievement of the goals set out in the Charter of the United Nations.

6. In accordance with rule 18 of its rules of procedure, the Council was required to elect four Vice-Presidents. He had been informed that, on the basis of informal consultations within the regional groups, the following candidates had been nominated: Mr. Abdel Halim Badawi (Egypt), Mr. Lloyd M. H. Barnett (Jamaica) and Mr. Paul Laberge (Canada).

Mr. Paul Laberge (Canada), Mr. Abdel Halim Badawi (Egypt) and Mr. Lloyd M. H. Barnett (Jamaica) were elected Vice-Presidents by acclamation.

7. The PRESIDENT announced that the election of the fourth Vice-President would be postponed to the 3rd meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS 2 AND 3

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (E/1987/2, E/1987/9, E/1987/12)

Basic programme of work of the Council for 1987 and 1988 (E/1987/1 and Add.1)

8. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the provisional agenda for the organizational session, contained in document E/1987/2. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt that agenda.

The agenda was adopted.

9. Mr. RIPERT (Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation) said that although the world economy had experienced modest growth in 1986, the problems of many developing countries had persisted and would continue to do so in 1987. However, the importance of multilateral co-operation had increasingly been recognized, as reflected in a number of important resolutions adopted by consensus at the forty-first session of the General Assembly, in the decision to launch a new round of multilateral trade negotiations under GATT and in the ongoing preparations for the seventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). In fact, nothing would demonstrate the relevance and usefulness of the United Nations more than tangible results from the various international conferences to be held on economic and social issues during the coming year.

10. At its forty-first session, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 41/213, which sought to strengthen the Organization's effectiveness in dealing with the political, economic and social issues submitted to it by Member States. A review of the economic, social and humanitarian sectors of the Secretariat was already being undertaken in that context, and the Secretary-General had indicated his intention to implement immediately those measures suggested by the review which fell within his authority and to submit to the appropriate intergovernmental bodies measures requiring a decision from them. A report on those matters was to be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) at its forthcoming session.

11. One of the tasks facing the Council during the current session would be to determine the modalities of the review to be undertaken of the relevant intergovernmental machinery in the economic and social fields. Given that there were currently more than 110 intergovernmental and expert bodies that dealt with economic and social issues, careful preparation of the review exercise and a clear division of responsibilities would be required. The review should cover the intergovernmental machinery in headquarters cities such as Vienna and Nairobi and at the regional commissions as well as in New York and Geneva. As a first step, the principal intergovernmental bodies might wish to assess their own functioning and submit recommendations for further action to the Council, focusing on areas of shared responsibilities. Those assessments, together with the Council's review of its own subsidiary organs, would enable the Council to determine where and how the intergovernmental machinery should be adjusted. The representatives of Member States in headquarters cities other than New York were especially well placed to evaluate the efficiency of the organs within their jurisdiction. Care should also be taken to ensure that efforts to enhance efficiency were not impeded by tensions which might develop between delegations or Secretariat units in certain headquarters cities.

12. Since the review of the organization of the Secretariat and the review of the intergovernmental machinery were closely related, it was to be hoped that the Secretary-General's report to CPC would be of use to the Council. Similarly, the results of the Council's work would have to be taken into account in finalizing any proposals relating to the organization of the Secretariat. He himself was preparing a report on co-ordination in the Secretariat and in the United Nations system, which the Council might also find useful.

13. While the review was intended to enhance the Organization's cost-effectiveness and responsiveness to the requirements of Member States, care must be taken to ensure that the capacity of the United Nations to deal appropriately with important economic, social and humanitarian issues was maintained. One area in which progress could be made was in the organization of the work of various intergovernmental bodies, an area in which both the Council and the Second Committee of the General Assembly had in recent years been successful.

14. Although the facilities available to the Council in 1987 were limited, the Secretariat would endeavour to accommodate the needs of the organ entrusted with the review. The Council should not, however, underestimate the difficulties facing the Secretariat. The Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation had begun collecting the information called for in recommendation 8 of the Group of 18, contained in its report (A/41/49), and had prepared a preliminary list of intergovernmental bodies.

15. The Council's programme of work for 1987 (E/1987/1, sects. I and II) offered opportunities for in-depth consideration of a number of important economic and social issues. However, in approaching its agenda, the Council must be selective, particularly in the light of the reduction in the number of scheduled meetings and the additional burden imposed by the review of the intergovernmental structure. Thus, in planning its work, the Council should take into consideration the fact that the seventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) would be held immediately after the second regular session of the Council.

16. The Secretariat had reviewed the Council's programme of work in an attempt to identify some items which might be considered at the second, rather than the first, regular session or perhaps at the resumed second regular session in September 1987, depending upon the availability of documentation. Alternatively, the Council might wish to consider referring some items directly to the General Assembly.

17. In 1986, in response to the financial situation, the Secretary-General had drawn attention to the need to reduce expenditure on meetings and documentation. Positive results had been achieved in that area, particularly during the forty-first session of the General Assembly. The Council might wish to follow the Assembly's example by waiving the need for a quorum,

holding three-hour morning meetings and making optimum use of the time and facilities allocated to it.

18. The United Nations would begin a process of reform and restructuring in 1987, a year which must also be characterized by international co-operation. The Secretary-General would also begin to formulate the medium-term plan for the period 1990-1995 of the United Nations during the current year. That plan should provide a policy framework for the future which embodied a dynamic vision of the Organization, taking into account the growing interdependence among member countries of different systems, the rapid evolution of global issues and their diverse interactions. Since the formulation of the plan was directly related to the Council's task of reforming the intergovernmental machinery while continuing to serve as the central co-ordinating body for economic and social activities of the United Nations system, the Council might wish to make it a central theme of the general debate at its second regular session.

19. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Council) said that the Council's second regular session of 1987 had been reduced from 16 to 13 working days. However, since the Secretariat had to consider resource requirements and the time required for processing in-session documents, the 13 days in fact represented only 11 working days.

20. The Secretariat suggested that the first regular session of the Council should begin one day earlier, on 4 May 1987, and that items 6 (United Nations University), 9 (Transnational corporations) and 11 (Natural resources) of the proposed agenda for the second regular session of 1987 should be taken up at the first regular session. Further, in its consideration of the item on desertification and drought (item 14), the Council should take up only the oral report on assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda, since the other reports under that item would be submitted in written form directly to the General Assembly. The item might then be taken up at the first regular session, rather than at the second, as scheduled, on the understanding that the Council would have before it only one oral report. The oral reports on special economic assistance to the Solomon Islands and on El Salvador, which had been included under the item on special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance, originally included in the agenda proposed for the second regular session, would also be considered at the first regular session. The rest of the reports under that item—with the exception of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, which the Council would consider at its second regular session—would be taken up directly by the General Assembly. If those suggestions were adopted, the first regular session would comprise 21 items instead of 16.

21. With regard to the second regular session of the Council, the Secretariat suggested that, since the General Assembly would be considering the questions of the environment, human settlements and science and technology for development in depth, the Council might wish, as an exceptional measure, to send the reports on those items directly to the Assembly without considering them itself. If the Council agreed to delete those three items from the agenda for the second regular session, that session would comprise 15 items instead of 23—or, in reality, 14, since the Council did not usually take up reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The item on trade and development would be considered at the resumed second regular session of 1987.

22. With regard to the item on regional co-operation, the Secretariat had been informed by the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions that the topics they wished to propose for consideration by the Council were interregional co-operation (economic co-operation among developing countries and technical co-operation among developing countries) and information technology (informatics).

23. If the Council chose to establish a group in connection with the review of intergovernmental machinery, the only available meeting dates within existing resources and without additional financial implications were 2 to 6 March and 18 to 20 March 1987.

24. Mrs. NIKOLIĆ (Observer for Yugoslavia) drew attention to paragraph 5 (*d*) of General Assembly resolution 41/105, concerning a possible meeting of States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to consider the financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). Both the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly at its forty-first session had already stressed that CERD would be unable to resume its work if States parties did not pay their assessed contributions. As of late January 1987, outstanding contributions for CERD had totalled $270,800, of which $160,782 corresponded to the period 1982-1986 and the remainder to 1987.

25. The role of CERD in the international struggle against racial discrimination had been amply demonstrated over the past 16 years, as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex) was the most widely accepted international instrument in that area of human rights. Thus, if CERD lacked the resources to hold its meetings, it was the task of the Economic and Social Council to correct that situation. The Secretary-General must take the necessary measures to convene a meeting of States parties during the first regular session of 1987 of the Economic and Social Council, and information about possible meeting dates should be provided during the current session.

26. U MAUNG MAUNG GYI (Observer for Burma) drew attention to document E/1987/12 containing a request from the Government of Burma to have that country included in the list of least developed countries. He asked the Council to take the necessary steps to refer that request to the Committee for Development Planning. For its part, Burma would provide all necessary information, bearing in mind the basic criteria for determining least-developed-country status. As international co-operation would bolster Burma's national development policies, the Committee for Development Planning should consider Burma's request on a priority basis and submit its recommendations to the Council at its second regular session of 1987.

27. Mr. ZVEZDIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the forthcoming review of the intergovernmental structure of the United Nations should be aimed at strengthening the role of the Organization in the social and economic spheres and enhancing the

effectiveness of the Council, which could become the central body in the United Nations system for accepting political recommendations on ways to solve major world economic problems. In that regard, the Council should endeavour to identify the most pressing problems in international economic relations with a view to adopting measures for their prevention and should foster international co-operation based on equality and mutual advantage. The Council could and should carry out the functions of co-ordinator of all economic and social activities of the United Nations system and should regularly consider key trade, monetary and financial and other problems of international economic life in order to provide a political stimulus for concrete negotiations. Particular attention should be given to the needs of the developing countries, whose disastrous social and economic situation had become a very serious problem.

28. That co-ordinating role would be in keeping with the increasing economic interdependence in the modern world. Global problems could not be solved in isolation, and the Council should adopt a comprehensive approach which would allow it to consider the interrelated nature of such problems. In that regard, during the general debate at its second regular session of 1987, the Council might examine its role in the social and economic activities of the United Nations system. That would enhance the Council's role as co-ordinator in the consideration of key international economic problems and would help prevent duplication of the general debate at the seventh session of UNCTAD.

29. The economic subdivisions of the Secretariat should take a more active part in strengthening the role of the Council. They should undertake an in-depth analysis of world economic problems and the approaches of various countries and groups of countries to such problems with a view to identifying similarities of approach and promoting mutually acceptable solutions on the basis of international co-operation and due respect for the interests of all States. The resources of the social and economic subdivisions of the Secretariat could be used to set up a kind of early-warning system to identify problems and difficulties in the world economy as they arose so that they could be examined and overcome in a timely manner.

30. The objective of international economic security was the development of a comprehensive approach to the solution of the most acute problems of the world economy in the interest of all States. His delegation hoped that Council members would participate actively in the discussion of the Secretary-General's report on a concept of international economic security[1] at the second regular session.

31. The draft basic programme of work of the Council for 1987 and 1988 (E/1987/1 and Add.1) provided a good framework for enhancing the role and effectiveness of the Council. The Council should step up its work in co-ordinating the contribution of the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to the cause of arms limitation and disarmament, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/59 D. That task was particularly important in the light of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, to be held in August and September 1987. The prospects for solving the social and economic problems covered by the Council's agenda and the agendas of other United Nations bodies were closely bound to progress in arms limitation and disarmament.

32. Mr. RODRIGO (Sri Lanka) said that while the basic programme of work should be streamlined, item 15 of the proposed agenda for the second regular session should not be deleted and sent directly to the General Assembly. It was particularly important that the Council should consider the report of the tenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements before the General Assembly did, since 1987 was the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

33. Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) said that, in view of the updated information which had been provided on the financial situation of CERD, his delegation strongly supported the Yugoslav proposal to convene a meeting of States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination during the Council's first regular session.

34. Mr. DIECKMANN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation was very sympathetic to Burma's request for inclusion in the list of least developed countries. Through close co-operation with Burma, the Federal Republic of Germany had become aware of that country's economic problems. He urged other delegations to join in supporting the submission of Burma's request to the Committee for Development Planning.

35. Ms. AIOUAZE (Algeria) said that, as a sponsor of General Assembly resolution 41/105, her delegation endorsed the remarks made by the representative of Yugoslavia regarding the critical financial situation of CERD.

36. Mr. BENNOUNA LOURIDI (Morocco) said that it would be useful to have the proposals of the Secretary of the Council regarding the programme of work in writing as soon as possible. His delegation attached great importance to recommendation 8 of the Group of 18 and had taken note of the remarks made in that connection by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation.

37. He supported Burma's request for classification as a least developed country and hoped that all Council members would do likewise. He also hoped that during its second regular session the Council would consider the Secretary-General's report on patterns of consumption: qualitative aspects of development, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/179.

38. Mr. GHAREKHAN (India) said that his delegation supported Burma's request and the Yugoslav proposal concerning CERD.

39. Mr. FARMER (Australia) said that his delegation was prepared to take part in preparations for the study requested in recommendation 8 of the Group of 18. His delegation also believed that the Council's work might actually be enhanced if only one session was held.

40. In view of statistics from the United Nations and other sources, Burma clearly met the criteria for least-developed-country status. He hoped the Committee for Development Planning would expedite Burma's application and report on its decision at the Council's second regular session. His delegation also supported the Yugoslav proposal concerning CERD.

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[1] Subsequently issued as document E/1987/77-A/42/314.

41. He asked the Secretariat to clarify whether summary records would be provided for the new Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/121.

42. Mr. ZVEZDIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed that, in view of the general support for Burma's request, a decision should be taken on the matter immediately.

43. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council, having considered the letter contained in document E/1987/12, dated 18 December 1986, from the Permanent Representative of Burma to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, should request the Committee for Development Planning to consider, on a priority basis, the inclusion of Burma in the list of the least developed countries, and to report thereon to the Council at its second regular session of 1987.

It was so decided (decision 1987/101).

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

2nd meeting

Tuesday, 3 February 1987, at 3.25 p.m.

President: Mr. Eugeniusz NOWORYTA (Poland)

E/1987/SR.2

AGENDA ITEMS 2 AND 3

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*) (E/1987/2, E/1987/9)

Basic programme of work of the Council for 1987 and 1988 (*continued*) (E/1987/1 and Add.1)

1. Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Observer for Costa Rica) drew attention to item 4 of the annotated agenda (E/1987/2), and to the need to ensure continuity in the work of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. To that end, the delegation of Costa Rica had submitted a draft decision on which consultations would be held among all regional groups. Her delegation hoped that the Economic and Social Council would give a clear mandate to the Commission on Human Rights, and that the sponsors of General Assembly resolution 41/143 would join in sponsoring the draft decision.

2. Mr. VRAALSEN (Norway) said that the adoption by consensus of General Assembly resolution 41/213 had been a manifestation of universal political will to initiate much needed reforms in the United Nations. However, that resolution did not represent a miracle cure which would immediately solve the Organization's administrative problems. The General Assembly had merely set in motion a reform process that would be gradual and difficult.

3. In section I, paragraph 1 (*e*), of General Assembly resolution 41/213, the Economic and Social Council was given the responsibility of carrying out the study of the intergovernmental structure in the economic and social fields, as referred to in recommendation 8 of the report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations (A/41/49). That task was of crucial importance, particularly because the economic and social sectors of the United Nations were to a large extent operational sectors, engaged in developmental activities for the benefit of the great majority of member countries. The overall objective of the study was to identify measures that would enhance the responsiveness of the United Nations to those countries' needs. That could be achieved only if the intergovernmental structure was rationalized, simplified, co-ordinated and made result-oriented. The Council was called upon to examine in depth the entire intergovernmental structure in the economic and social fields, including such organizations as UNDP, UNICEF, WFC and UNCTAD.

4. While all delegations had valuable views and proposals to offer regarding possible reforms, such a study could not be conducted successfully in continuous plenary meetings. There should be an arrangement which would allow for strong and determined leadership on behalf of the Member States and which at the same time provided for full accountability. The Council should entrust a group of countries drawn from its membership with the task of organizing the work in connection with the study, undertaking the necessary research and drafting the report. His delegation therefore made the following proposals: (*a*) the Council, at the current session, should decide to set up a group of limited membership that would be responsible for drafting the study; (*b*) the President of the Council should be authorized to appoint the members of the group, in consultation with the regional groups and with due regard for equitable geographical distribution; (*c*) the group would report on a continuous basis to the Council in plenary meeting; (*d*) any member State not appointed to the group could attend the meetings of the group in accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Council; (*e*) the group might on its own initiative, or on request from any member of the Council, organize special meetings open to all Council members; (*f*) the report of the group must be considered and finalized at the second regular session of 1988 of the Council for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-third session; (*g*) the Secretary-General should be requested to provide the necessary assistance to the group, including staff, services and documentation, as requested.

5. Mr. GORAJEWSKI (Poland) said that in carrying out the study requested in General Assembly resolution 41/213, the Council should adopt a flexible working arrangement which should not in any way disrupt the regular work of the Council. His delegation fully shared the concern of the Secretariat regarding the need to bring forward some topics from the provisional agenda of the second regular session to the provisional agenda of the first regular session; however, that should not

result in a limit being placed on the discussion of substantive issues normally held at the first regular session, and the practice of selecting priority issues for discussion at that session should continue. For example, the Council should pay special attention, at that session, to social development issues and the streamlining of the work of the Commission on Social Development. His delegation could not support the proposal to delete some items from the agenda for 1987. The Council, as the central United Nations body responsible for economic and social affairs, should avoid such deletions, even on an exceptional basis, and should have the right to express its views on the work of functional and sectoral United Nations bodies. With regard to the distribution of specific items, matters concerning the environment and human settlements should be retained on the provisional agenda for the second regular session.

6. Mr. NORRIS (United States of America) said that the work of the Council over the next two years had the potential to exert a positive influence on the work of the United Nations in the economic and social spheres into the next century. His delegation believed that reform was needed across the board, both in intergovernmental structures and in the Secretariat. The United States felt confident that that process would be perceived by all not as a threat, but as an opportunity to rationalize the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations, reducing the number of conferences and meetings and eliminating repetitive overlapping of agenda items, and to concentrate the limited resources of the Organization on providing assistance to those countries in greatest need of it.

7. His delegation believed that a core group should be established to carry out the study envisioned in recommendation 8 of the Group of 18, contained in its report (A/41/49). It should be composed of representatives of member States of the Council, in line with the principle of equitable geographical distribution, and should be so constituted that a limited number of delegations would be responsible for producing the report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-third session. Such an approach would ensure the continuity, co-ordination and accountability essential to the success of the exercise. The group should begin its work immediately and should have made sufficient progress to provide some thought-provoking ideas to the Council at its second regular session in 1987.

8. The United States believed that the reform process should be the main concern of the Council during the next two years and that it should be the priority issue at the second regular session of 1987 of the Council, since useful inputs to a discussion of the subject would also be provided by the report of the Secretary-General on co-ordination of the United Nations system.

9. Mr. LUCAS (Observer for Guyana) said that he supported the proposal made at the previous meeting by the Yugoslav delegation regarding the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Before commenting on how the Council should respond to recommendations 8 and 2 of the Group of 18, contained in its report (A/41/49), his delegation needed to give thought to the best way of approaching that complex task.

10. Mr. DE CLERCK (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community, observed that, given the complexity and scope of the study called for in recommendation 8 of the Group of 18, contained in its report (A/41/49), the most practical procedure would be to set up a working group with a limited number of members, although the Twelve would be ready to consider other possible arrangements such as an open-ended working group, provided it could complete its work within the 1988 time-limit. The first order of business of such a group should be the election of officers: the chairman should be a person of high qualifications and should be assisted by four vice-chairmen proposed by the regional groups. The vice-chairmen would act as permanent rapporteurs, so to speak. The Secretariat should propose for adoption at the current organizational session a specific schedule of meetings for the working group, to begin in March so that the group could submit reports to the Council at its first and second regular sessions.

11. The technical nature of the subject made the Secretariat's role more important than usual, a point made also at the previous meeting by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, a number of whose suggestions the Twelve were pleased to note coincided with their own. From the start, it would have to furnish the group with all the information needed for an understanding of the structure and support mechanisms of the intergovernmental bodies in the economic and social fields, in accordance with paragraph 3 of recommendation 8. It must do so, moreover, without additional expenditure.

12. The Council should also give thought to requesting the specific assistance of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in implementing recommendation 8, pursuant to section I, paragraph 1 (*e*), of General Assembly resolution 41/213.

13. Although recommendation 2 of the Group of 18 bore on a separate issue, the European Community felt that the work done by the Council in compliance with recommendation 8 would throw new light on the organization of the Council itself. The Secretariat should therefore provide the Council as soon as possible with all the budgetary and administrative data concerning the possible options for organization regarding frequency and location of meetings, to allow it to comply with recommendation 2.

14. Although the Council's second regular session had been shortened to two and one half weeks, its agenda was, if anything, heavier than usual, since it would have to deal with questions relating to recommendation 8 as well. The European Community believed that all duplication between the general debate of the Council and that of the seventh session of UNCTAD on development questions should be avoided, and the Council should therefore probably either focus on a specific development issue or use the allotted time for other agenda items. The Council should emulate the General Assembly in limiting the length of all statements made.

15. Ms. PULIDO-SANTANA (Venezuela) proposed the following draft resolution, reproducing the substance of paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 41/126, for adoption by the Council:

"*The Economic and Social Council,*

"*Taking note* of General Assembly resolution 41/126 of 4 December 1986,

"*Decides* to request the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to continue at its thirty-second regular session its work on the preparation of the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in the most expeditious manner, so that it may be effective, and widely acceptable, and enter into force at the earliest possible time."

16. Mr. TANIGUCHI (Japan) observed that one of the most important issues before the Council was the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations, and that Japan, which had worked with the Group of 18, was ready to participate actively in the work of the Council in compliance with recommendation 8. The vast amount of intensive work such a far-reaching task required should involve as many Member States as possible in an *ad hoc* working group whose membership should, however, be limited to a reasonable number for purposes of efficiency. The working group and its bureau would need high-level expertise.

17. Such a working group should, moreover, be mandated to consider the implementation of both recommendation 8 and recommendation 2 of the Group of 18, contained in its report (A/41/49), since they dealt with related issues from different perspectives. The working group should begin work as soon as possible so that the Council could discuss both questions at both regular sessions of 1987. It should be convened prior to the first regular session to take up organizational matters like the programme of work and the election of officers and, if time permitted, a first discussion of substantive issues.

18. Japan found acceptable the basic programme of work of the Council for 1987 and 1988, as set out in documents E/1987/1 and 2 and as revised by the Secretary of the Council at the previous meeting, but believed that the question of the efficiency of the Council and its subsidiary bodies should be included in the agenda of both regular sessions. It also thought that the Council should postpone its discussion of questions for inclusion in the 1988 programme of work (E/1987/1/Add.1) until after the working group had met.

19. Japan hoped that the Council would find it possible to approve Burma's request for inclusion in the list of least developed countries.

20. Mr. VALDEZ (Peru) said that his delegation shared the views expressed by the representative of Yugoslavia at the previous meeting concerning the situation with respect to General Assembly resolution 41/105 on the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. His delegation hoped that the Committee could meet during the first regular session of the Council.

21. His delegation recognized the importance of the issues assigned to the Council by the General Assembly in resolution 41/213, and considered that the magnitude of the task called for the efforts and the participation of all States Members of the Organization.

22. However, the attention to be devoted to those issues should not be allowed to obscure the flagrant anomalies in the international economic situation. The increasingly serious crisis in the developing countries, the instability of international markets and the reverse flow of funds that had made institutions financing development the net beneficiaries of resources generated by the developing countries were the most obvious manifestations of an international situation which should remain at the centre of the Council's attention. Priority should not be given to administrative over substantive matters, nor to organizational matters over matters that were of far-reaching consequence.

23. Mr. LABERGE (Canada) said that the Economic and Social Council's mandate from the General Assembly on the basis of recommendation 8 of the Group of 18 was a difficult one, since the Council had little control over or knowledge of many of the intergovernmental activities in the economic and social fields. The Council would have to regain that control, and to do so it would need to obtain from the Secretariat detailed information, including information on follow-up action taken on relevant General Assembly decisions in recent years.

24. At the previous meeting, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation had invited the main intergovernmental bodies to evaluate their own functions. In his delegation's view such a procedure was not entirely satisfactory. It seemed unrealistic that those bodies should themselves identify and remedy any duplication of their work. The Council itself should undertake that task. To do so it would need additional information, for example organizational charts, which he hoped could be made available to the Council in March 1987.

25. With respect to the Council's agenda in 1987, his delegation considered that follow-up to recommendations 2 and 8 of the Group of 18 should be given priority consideration and that the items relating to human settlements and the environment should not be dropped from the agenda in 1987.

26. Lastly, he felt that it was important to emphasize that the quality of representation on the proposed working group would be more important than quantity, since its task would be a difficult one.

27. Mr. MULLER (Australia) requested an answer to the question his delegation had raised at the previous meeting.

28. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Council) said that, as other delegations would no doubt have similar questions, he would prefer, with the Australian delegation's permission, to wait and answer them all at the same time.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.

3rd meeting

Friday, 6 February 1987, at 11.35 a.m.

President: Mr. Eugeniusz NOWORYTA (Poland)

E/1987/SR.3

AGENDA ITEM 1

Election of the bureau (*continued*)*

1. The PRESIDENT invited the members of the Council to elect the fourth Vice-President for 1987. He had been informed that, as a result of informal consultations, Mr. Aneesuddin Ahmed (Pakistan) had been nominated for that office.

Mr. Aneesuddin Ahmed (Pakistan) was elected Vice-President by acclamation.

2. The PRESIDENT said that, if there were no objections, Mr. Lloyd M. H. Barnett (Jamaica) would serve as Chairman of the First (Economic) Committee, Mr. Paul Laberge (Canada) as Chairman of the Second (Social) Committee and Mr. Aneesuddin Ahmed (Pakistan) as Chairman of the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee. Mr. Abdel Halim Badawi (Egypt) would perform other functions as required by the Council and would co-ordinate informal consultations.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Elections to subsidiary bodies of the Council, appointments and confirmation of representatives on the functional commissions (E/1987/10 and Add.1, E/1987/11/Rev.1 and Add.1, E/1987/L.1, E/1987/L.2, E/1987/L.3, E/1987/L.6, E/1987/L.10)

TERM OF OFFICE OF THE CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES (E/1987/L.10)

3. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to General Assembly resolution 41/143 and to draft decision E/1987/L.10 on the term of office of the current members of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, noting that Bangladesh, Cuba, Jamaica, Peru and the Philippines had joined in sponsoring the draft decision.

4. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision.

The draft decision was adopted (decision 1987/102).

5. Mr. MULLER (Australia) said his delegation had joined the consensus even though it had abstained in the voting on General Assembly resolution 41/143. Australia strongly supported the activities of the Sub-Commission and had objected to cancellation of its 1986 session. In the voting on resolution 41/143, his delegation had expressed concern at extending the mandate of the Sub-Commission members. It disagreed with the decision to postpone the election of new members until the forty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights. Lengthy negotiations had been needed at the Commission's forty-second session to arrange for those elections. The draft decision should not set a precedent for other bodies whose schedules had been, or might be, interrupted.

6. Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Observer for Costa Rica) said that the purpose of the draft decision had been to support the Commission on Human Rights in accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/143. That resolution had been adopted with the broad support of the General Assembly.

APPOINTMENTS

7. The PRESIDENT said that, as indicated in documents E/1987/2 and E/1987/10 and Add.1, the Secretary-General had nominated 24 experts to serve on the Committee for Development Planning. The experts would serve in their personal capacity for a term ending on 31 December 1989.

8. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to appoint the experts by acclamation.

It was so decided. **

ELECTIONS POSTPONED FROM PREVIOUS SESSIONS (E/1987/2)

9. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take up the question of elections postponed from previous sessions and drew attention to the annotations to item 4 contained in document E/1987/2. The Group of West European and other States had informed the Secretariat that Norway had been nominated to fill the vacancy on the Commission for Social Development, for a term which would expire on 31 December 1990.

10. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Norway by acclamation.

It was so decided. **

11. The PRESIDENT said that the Group of Asian States had informed the Secretariat that Iraq had been nominated to fill one of the two vacancies on the Commission on Human Settlements. The term would expire on 31 December 1988.

12. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Iraq by acclamation.

It was so decided. **

13. The PRESIDENT said that Bangladesh had nominated itself to fill the vacancy for the Asian States on the Commission on Transnational Corporations. The term would expire on 31 December 1988.

14. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Bangladesh by acclamation.

It was so decided. **

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*See also the 5th meeting, in the present volume, and the 20th meeting, in volume II.

**See decision 1987/103.

15. The PRESIDENT proposed that since no other nominations had been received, the elections to fill the remaining vacancies in the Commission on Human Settlements, the Committee on Natural Resources and the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting should be postponed to a subsequent session.

*It was so decided.***

CONFIRMATION OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE FUNCTIONAL COMMISSIONS

16. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to documents E/1987/11/Rev.1 and Add.1, in which the Secretary-General submitted to the Council for confirmation the names of representatives nominated by their Governments, after the close of the organizational session for 1986, to five of the six functional commissions of the Council, namely: the Statistical Commission, the Population Commission, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women.

17. Norway had just informed the Secretariat that it had nominated Mr. Jon Ola Norbom as its representative on the Commission for Social Development.

18. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to confirm the nominations of the representatives named in documents E/1987/11/Rev.1 and Add.1, and that of Mr. Norbom.

*It was so decided.***

19. The PRESIDENT said the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 4.

AGENDA ITEMS 2 AND 3

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*) (E/1987/2, E/1987/9, E/1987/14, E/1987/L.11)

Basic programme of work of the Council for 1987 and 1988 (*continued*) (E/1987/1 and Add.1, E/1987/L.12, E/1987/L.14)

20. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take up the five draft decisions contained in the informal working paper of 6 February 1987.

DRAFT DECISION 1

21. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decision 1, which was based on General Assembly resolution 41/126 concerning the draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Draft decision 1 was adopted (decision 1987/104).

DRAFT DECISION 2

22. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decision 2, which was based on General Assembly resolution 41/127 concerning the international campaign against traffic in drugs.

Draft decision 2 was adopted (decision 1987/105).

DRAFT DECISION 3

23. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decision 3, which was based on the recommendation in the report of the Secretary-General concerning the code of conduct on transnational corporations (E/1987/9).

24. Mr. MARIN BOSCH (Observer for Mexico) said he wished to add the following sentence at the end of the draft decision:

> "The Council invites the Secretary-General to assist the Commission in reaching agreement on the code of conduct."

25. Mr. SCHUMANN (German Democratic Republic), speaking on behalf also of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, said that he wished to clarify paragraphs 8 and 9 of document E/1987/9. The high-level Round Table held at Montreux had not dealt with either the substance or the purpose of the draft code of conduct. The statement adopted by the Round Table (E/1987/9, annex) was thus no more than an indication of certain outstanding issues. Those limitations should have been specified in the Secretary-General's report. The Montreux meeting had demonstrated that a meaningful code would come only with recognition of all sensitive aspects of the negotiation process, and with respect for the mandate defined by the General Assembly and the Council. The delegations for which he was speaking fully supported the addition Mexico had proposed.

Draft decision 3, as orally amended, was adopted (decision 1987/106).

DRAFT DECISION 4

26. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decision 4 concerning a waiver of rule 2 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

Draft decision 4 was adopted (decision 1987/107).

DRAFT DECISION 5

27. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider draft decision 5 concerning the basic programme of work of the Economic and Social Council for 1987 and 1988.

28. Mr. JØNCK (Denmark) said he fully supported the principle of transferring agenda items from the list for the second regular session to the list for the first regular session. Problems would arise, however, if the First (Economic) Committee were convened during the first regular session of the Council. The only item requiring lengthy debate was that concerning transnational corporations. If it were postponed until the second regular session, the First (Economic) Committee would not have to meet at all during the first regular session.

29. At the second regular session of 1986, the Nordic countries had expressed concern over the unfocused approach to the item on international co-operation and co-ordination within the United Nations system. Very different reports had been presented under that item and, as a result, few conclusions had been reached. It would be more effective to combine the items on effec-

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**See decision 1987/103.

tive mobilization and integration of women in development and the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development. Similarly, the cross-organizational programme analysis of the activities of the United Nations system in the area of science and technology for development should be considered together with the policy report of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development. In both cases, consolidating agenda items would make it possible for policy and programming concerns to be viewed together.

30. The item on international co-operation and co-ordination might also be subdivided into three areas: the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination (CPC) and the report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC); the question of co-ordination, including the report requested in General Assembly resolution 40/177; and activities concerning human resources. Under the third sub-theme, the report on the Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC could be considered along with the Secretary-General's report on human resources development. All the other reports would be listed under the main heading since they did not fall into any natural groups.

31. Finally, it was unclear why the words "on an exceptional basis" had been inserted in paragraph 5 (*b*) of the draft decision, particularly since that phrase had not been used the year before.

32. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Council) said that the words had been included because the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Commission on Human Settlements and the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development were adopting a biennial cycle of meetings on an experimental basis. A more fundamental issue to be resolved was how the Council should deal with reports which were submitted through it to the Assembly every other year.

33. The suggestions made by the representative of Denmark, if adopted, would streamline the Council's work. However, it would be more efficient, in terms of both time and cost, to convene the First (Economic) Committee at the first regular session. Not only would it enable the Council to work faster, as three meetings could be held concurrently, but, since only plenary meetings received summary record coverage, it would also mean savings in terms of cost.

34. Mr. LAVROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that the Council had already agreed during the informal discussions how its sessions should be organized and he doubted that there was time to reopen the debate.

35. The proposal that the cross-organizational review of the medium-term plans of the organizations of the United Nations system and programme analysis in the area of science and technology for development should be considered in conjunction with the item "science and technology for development", which was tentatively scheduled for consideration at the resumed second regular session, ran counter to an earlier Council recommendation to the effect that the review and the cross-organizational programme analysis of activities of the United Nations in that same field should be merged into a single report of the Secretary-General which was to be submitted to the Council through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination. He therefore did not support the proposal. Furthermore the regrouping proposed by the representative of Denmark would not be particularly helpful.

36. With regard to the special commission which the Council was shortly to establish to review the structure and functioning of the intergovernmental machinery in the economic and social fields, he said that it must be made clear that, at its first regular session (item 3) the Council would simply be receiving recommendations concerning the special commission's programme of work and calendar of meetings and that, at its second regular session (item 4) it would be receiving a progress report. Otherwise the impression might be created that the Council would be having a full debate on that topic.

37. Mr. DIECKMANN (Federal Republic of Germany) asked whether or not it would be cheaper, in terms of money and time saved, to convene the First (Economic) Committee at the first regular session. He stressed the need for the Council to agree on a time-limit for statements made in the general debate. He asked what precisely was intended by the proposal that information technology (informatics) be considered under the item "regional co-operation".

38. Mr. LY (Senegal) agreed with the representative of the Soviet Union concerning the need to make it clear that the review of the structure and functioning of the intergovernmental machinery in the economic and social fields would not be receiving in-depth consideration.

39. Mr. DJOGHLAF (Observer for Algeria) said that the proposed item entitled "review of the structure and functioning of the intergovernmental machinery in the economic and social fields" did not reflect the sort of work that preparation of the study that was called for in recommendation 8 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations (Group of 18) would entail. That discrepancy should be corrected.

40. Mr. JØNCK (Denmark) said that his delegation believed that there was broad support to improve the structure of the debate on the item concerning international co-operation and co-ordination and would remain open to all constructive proposals. With regard to item 7 (Effective mobilization and integration of women in development) proposed for the second regular session, the Secretary-General had been requested to take into account the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies in all sectors of economic development and to make the necessary arrangements for their effective system-wide implementation. It would seem very logical therefore for the Council to consider at the same time the report on the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development.

41. Since the policy recommendations on science and technology very often had programmatic implications, the Council should try to take an overall view of United Nations programme activities in the field of science and technology. If such a procedure was followed, the discussions in the Council would be better structured and more fruitful.

42. Mr. BANGO BANGO nyi MBEKWEEMBI wa GBAU (Zaire) said that his delegation agreed with the representative of the Soviet Union that it should be made perfectly clear that there was no question of embarking on an in-depth consideration of the item

concerning the review of the structure and functioning of the intergovernmental machinery in the economic and social fields in 1987.

43. Mr. LAVROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, although he agreed with the proposal that the Council should consider the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development under the item "effective mobilization and integration of women in development", he could not agree to the other proposals made by the representative of Denmark.

44. Mr. FIELD (United Kingdom) agreed with the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany that it would be useful to know what kind of savings the Council would make in terms of time and cost by convening the First (Economic) Committee at the first regular session.

45. The Council should make sure that the way in which it referred to the item concerning the review of the structure and functioning of the intergovernmental machinery was in agreement with the paper which it would adopt on the work of the special commission. With regard to the proposed reorganization of the item on international co-operation and co-ordination, his delegation agreed that the report on the medium-term plan for women in development should be considered under item 7 proposed for the second regular session. The Council should give due attention and emphasis to the Secretary-General's report on co-ordination in the United Nations and the United Nations system to be submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 40/177, since that subject was relevant to the whole discussion of the review of the efficiency of the Organization.

46. Mr. DE CLERCK (Belgium) supported the suggestion made by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany regarding the need for a time-limit for speakers during the general debate at the second regular session. The exact wording of the item concerning the review of the structure and functioning of the intergovernmental machinery should correspond as closely as possible with the mandate to be entrusted to the proposed special commission.

47. Mr. ELHASSAN (Sudan) agreed with the proposal of the representative of Denmark regarding the regrouping of reports under the item concerning international co-operation and co-ordination, but suggested that the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee should consider that question at the second regular session. With regard to the transfer of reports to other items, the Council did not have the time to consider all of the reports involved and should therefore simply add footnotes to indicate that certain reports would be considered under other items. The Council could consider a more rational way of listing reports at its next organizational session for 1988.

48. Ms. NIEMANN (Canada) said that her delegation understood that the system-wide medium-term plan was being considered as an instrument of co-ordination and was therefore a matter for the Third (Programme and Co-ordination) Committee. Her delegation would be pleased to see that issue considered also under agenda item 7 of the second regular session, inasmuch as the substance of the medium-term plan focused on the issue of women in development. However, final approval of that important instrument should not be shifted from the Third Committee to the First Committee.

49. Mr. LY (Senegal) said that there was a difference in the French and English wording of the titles of proposed agenda items 3 of the first regular session and 4 of the second regular session. The wording should reflect the decision to be taken on the study requested by the Group of 18 in its recommendation 8 (see A/41/49). Emphasis should be placed on the report to be considered and not on the substantive discussions which would take place within the proposed special commission.

50. Mr. RAHMAN (Bangladesh) supported the proposals made by the representative of Sudan, as well as the comments made by the representative of Algeria regarding the title of the item concerning the review of the structure and functioning of the intergovernmental machinery.

51. The report of the Eleventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific should be reflected under "Cartography" on page 2 of document E/1987/1/Add.1, and the report of the seventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should be listed under "Trade and development" on page 5 of the same document.

52. Mr. PAPADATOS (Observer for Greece) said that his delegation supported Canada's proposal that the system-wide medium-term plan for women in development should be considered by both the First and the Third Committees at the second regular session.

53. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Council), responding to the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, said that when members of the Secretariat staff concerned were not writing summary records they were translating documents. Thirteen meetings had been scheduled for the First (Economic) Committee during the first regular session. The cost of preparing summary records came to $4,200 per meeting. However, summary records were provided only for plenary meetings of the Council. Thus, increasing the number of plenary meetings would have financial implications.

54. As the representative of the Sudan had pointed out, the Council could take up the matter of how to group the reports under the item on international co-operation and co-ordination when it considered the draft provisional agenda for the second regular session. The most urgent issue was whether transnational corporations should be considered at the first or second regular session, and whether or not the First (Economic) Committee should meet during the first regular session.

55. With regard to the title of the item on the review of the structure and functioning of the intergovernmental machinery in the economic and social fields, negotiations were proceeding and the wording would be changed. The name of the proposed special commission would conform to the wording of the agenda item.

56. The reports mentioned by the representative of Bangladesh had not been listed because the informal working paper showed only the item titles and did not list documentation.

57. Mr. MUKOKO-MOKEBA (Representative of the Regional Commissions Liaison Office) said that the word "informatics" used in the informal working paper referred to computerized information for the transfer

of know-how and technology from the developed to the developing countries within the region of each Commission.

58. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Council), responding to the question raised by the representative of Yugoslavia at the first meeting (para. 25), said that the meeting of States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination would be held in the second half of April, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 41/105. Replying to the question raised by the representative of Australia, also at the first meeting (para. 41), he said that summary records would be provided for the meetings of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, although there might be delays in publication for certain languages.

Draft decision 5 was adopted (decision 1987/108, sect. I).

AGENDA ITEM 5

Provisional agenda for the first regular session of 1987 and other organizational matters

59. The PRESIDENT said that the Council, having just adopted draft dcision 5, had also adopted the provisional agenda for its first regular session of 1987.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

4th meeting

Friday, 6 February 1987, at 5.15 p.m.

President: Mr. Eugeniusz NOWORYTA (Poland)

E/1987/SR.4

In the absence of the President, Mr. Barnett (Jamaica), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEMS 2 AND 3

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*concluded*) (E/1987/2, E/1987/9, E/1987/14, E/1987/L.11)

Basic programme of work of the Council for 1987 and 1988 (*concluded*) (E/1987/1/Add.1, E/1987/L.12, E/1987/L.14)

1. Mr. NORRIS (United States of America) said that his delegation recommended suspension of the thirtieth session of the Commission for Social Development, scheduled for February-March, and the postponement of the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes, scheduled for September. In so doing, the United States was motivated by a strong interest in the efficiency and functioning of the Organization as a whole.

2. The United States proposal concerning the Commission for Social Development was based on the following considerations. Firstly, preparations for the session were inadequate, and it would thus be difficult to have an organized and well-focused discussion of any substantive issue. The next session of the Commission should not be held until the ground was well prepared. Secondly, the cost of the extra session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in January, needed to be offset. Cancellation of the session of the Commission for Social Development would serve that purpose. Thirdly, given the financial crisis facing the United Nations, all efforts must be made to avoid holding inadequately prepared meetings and wasting resources, particularly if such meetings became a forum for unnecessary politicization.

3. With reference to the Interregional Consultation on Developmental and Social Welfare, he noted that the United States had urged postponement at a meeting, held on 22 October 1986, of the Third Committee of the General Assembly. At that meeting, Ambassador Patricia M. Byrne had recalled that the Economic and Social Council had endorsed the 1985 proposal for an interregional consultation to be held in September 1987 in Vienna. She had gone on to say that the United States had endorsed that effort because, like other Member States, it believed that it would be valuable to share experience on how some social programmes had succeeded, how others had failed, how needs remained to be met, and how all levels of Government and the private sector could participate effectively in the development of social policies and programmes. The United States had expressed concern that adequate preparation must be undertaken for such a meeting, particularly if it was to attract participation at the ministerial level, as was hoped. Ambassador Byrne had also said that such concerns were being felt even more strongly than they had been a year and a half before. Severe budget constraints had taken their toll. The Secretariat had become less confident than it had been during the session of the Commission for Social Development that it could provide the kind of analysis of social issues that would be appropriate for the attention of ministers. An inadequately prepared meeting would be more likely to retard than to accelerate effective progress in the development of social policy and the sharing of experience on social programmes. With some reluctance, therefore, Ambassador Byrne had proposed that the Third Committee of the General Assembly should consider deferring the Interregional Consultation to a time when it could profit from effective and thorough preparation.

4. The United States remained concerned that the proposed meeting would impose a serious burden on the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, at Vienna, at a time when it was undergoing serious reforms and had to handle other important conferences, such as the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. An insufficiently

prepared consultation could only lead to further weakening of the Centre.

5. His delegation proposed the following draft resolutions:

"DRAFT RESOLUTION I

"*Suspension of the thirtieth session of the Commission for Social Development*

"*The Economic and Social Council,*

"*Recalling* the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations (A/41/49), endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986,

"*Decides* to suspend the thirtieth session of the Commission for Social Development, originally planned for 23 February to 4 March 1987, and merge it with its thirty-first session."

"DRAFT RESOLUTION II

"*Postponement of the September 1987 Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes*

"*The Economic and Social Council,*

"*Recalling* the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations (A/41/49), endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986,

"*Noting* the extreme strain on the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, at Vienna, caused by the scheduling of several important meetings in a short time span,

"*Decides* that the Interregional Consultation on Developmental and Social Welfare Policies and Programmes, now scheduled to open in Vienna on 7 September 1987, should be postponed indefinitely."

6. Mr. GORAJEWSKI (Poland), speaking on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, said that they were surprised at the statement by the United States delegation on the curtailment of the work of the Commission for Social Development, only a couple of weeks before the opening of the session. The reasons presented for suspension were unclear and unconvincing. The United States had contended that insufficient preparations had been made for the session, but the available information indicated that most of the documents had already been published. Perhaps the Secretariat could be asked to provide information on the status of documentation.

7. There were many important items on the Commission's agenda, including the question of the improvement of its work. The Commission was to give its recommendation on that matter, which would serve as a basis for the Secretary-General's report to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session; the Council would then consider the question in accordance with its resolution 1986/14.

8. It was unclear why the United States, in referring to General Assembly resolution 41/213, had singled out for criticism the Commission for Social Development from the approximately 200 subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The United States had supported the proposal made in a working paper to request the United Nations intergovernmental bodies in the economic and social sectors, including all subsidiary bodies of the Council, to consider at their next session their views and recommendations on achieving the objectives envisaged in recommendation 8 of the Group of 18, contained in its report (A/41/49). His delegation did not understand why the Commission for Social Development, one of the principal subsidiary bodies of the Council, should be denied such an opportunity. Moreover, it was unfair and arbitrary to propose the cancellation of the session of one subsidiary body in order to finance the session of another body.

9. Mr. ANDRADE DÍAZ-DURÁN (Observer for Guatemala), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that every single member of the Group would endeavour to preserve, strengthen, expand and promote economic and social activities which would ultimately benefit the international community and, in particular, the large population centres of the developing world. The Group of 77 was aware of the need to improve the efficiency of the Organization, so as to be able to make maximum use of the available ways and means of promoting development and international co-operation. In that context, he recalled General Assembly resolution 32/197, the objective of which had been to restructure the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. Despite complex contemporary problems, the United Nations represented not only a hope, but also a structure capable of dealing with those problems. Current circumstances demanded that all Member States should demonstrate the political will to improve the Organization.

10. In resolution 41/213, the General Assembly had recommended that the Economic and Social Council should carry out the study called for in recommendation 8 contained in the report of the Group of 18 (A/41/49). The Group of 77 proposed that a Special Commission should be established to carry out the study, with the equal participation of all States Members of the United Nations, and that the Council should facilitate that participation. The Bureau of the Special Commission should be formed similarly to those of the other committees of the Council, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical representation. It was essential to initiate the specific work of the committee as soon as possible, providing it with a fairly flexible schedule so that it could function—with the help of the Secretariat—between the regular sessions of the Council.

11. The study to be undertaken by such a committee would be very broad, and it should therefore have enough time to hear the views of the bodies which would directly or indirectly contribute to the analysis. With regard to the reports to be submitted by the various intergovernmental bodies to the Special Commission, on the in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields, the Group of 77 felt that a deadline should be fixed for their submission.

12. As to the Council's agenda, the Group of 77 considered that no priority should be assigned to any par-

ticular agenda item, although substantive items should obviously come before procedural questions. The Group was prepared to make any adjustments necessary with regard to the scheduling changes suggested by the Secretariat, involving a transfer of some agenda items from the second regular session to the first regular session and the deletion of some others. However, it felt that the item entitled "International co-operation in the field of human settlements" should be addressed at the second regular session.

13. At its meeting of 27 January, the Group of 77 had decided to support the reconvening of the special session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on the elaboration of a code of conduct (E/1987/9, para. 13). The Group of 77 wished to reaffirm its willingness to maintain contact with other groups within the United Nations system.

REQUESTS FOR INCLUSION IN THE LIST OF LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

14. Mr. KAZEMBE (Observer for Zambia) said that his Government, in a letter dated 3 February 1987 (E/1987/14), had requested that Zambia be included in the list of the least developed countries. Zambia had made the request because it was trying to overcome certain structural problems in its economy. He asked the Council to forward the request to the Committee for Development Planning.

15. Mr. RAHMAN (Bangladesh), Mr. KABANDA (Rwanda), Mr. DJOGHLAF (Observer for Algeria) and Mr. FIELD (United Kingdom) expressed support for Zambia's request, on the understanding that it would be considered within established procedures and existing criteria.

16. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council adopt the following draft decision on the understanding that the Secretariat would give the decision its final form:

> "The Economic and Social Council, having considered the letter dated 3 February 1987 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, decides to request the Committee for Development Planning to consider the inclusion of Zambia in the list of the least developed countries, and to submit its recommendations to the Council at its second regular session of 1987."

The draft decision was adopted (decision 1987/109).

17. U MAUNG MAUNG GYI (Observer for Burma) said his delegation was pleased that the Council, at its 1st meeting, had adopted a decision in response to Burma's request in a letter dated 18 December 1986 (E/1987/12) that it be included in the list of least developed countries. He suggested that the wording of the decision should be brought into line with the wording of the decision concerning Zambia and expressed the hope that the request would be taken up by the Committee for Development Planning on a priority basis.

18. Mr. RAHMAN (Bangladesh) supported Burma's suggestion and drew attention to the fact that Burma had asked to be included in the list of least developed countries "in accordance with the established procedures" (E/1987/12).

19. The PRESIDENT said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council accepted Burma's suggestion.

It was so decided.

DRAFT RESOLUTION E/1987/L.11

20. Mr. MULLER (Budget Division) said that the adoption of draft resolution E/1987/L.11, entitled "Cycle of meetings of the Commission on Transnational Corporations", would mean that the Commission would meet on a biennial basis, resulting in expected savings for 1988-1989 of $78,100 in travel and subsistence costs of 16 experts for two weeks, and $561,200 for total conference-servicing at full cost.

21. Mr. DASGUPTA (India) said that he did not think the organizational session was an appropriate forum for discussing such a substantive issue. It should be considered, together with the implementation of recommendation 2 of the Group of 18, contained in its report (A/41/49), at the first regular session of the Council.

22. Mr. VALDEZ (Peru) agreed with the representative of India. The draft resolution was based on administrative and budgetary considerations and did not take account of the other aspects involved, which could be more suitably examined either at the first regular session of the Council or within the framework of the review of the recommendations of the Group of 18.

23. Mr. SCHUMANN (German Democratic Republic) also agreed with the representative of India. The Commission on Transnational Corporations dealt with key elements of development and international economic co-operation, and should therefore continue to work in accordance with current practice until the review in question had been undertaken. His delegation also considered that the annual session of the Commission should be maintained as long as discussions on a code of conduct for transnational corporations continued, and as long as work regarding the illegal activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia continued.

24. Mr. LABERGE (Canada) said that he saw no connection between work on a code of conduct and the initiative aimed at achieving the objective, already agreed to by the United Nations, of biennializing work wherever possible. He inquired of the Secretariat whether any financial savings would be made by taking a decision on the initiative at the current session rather than in May 1987.

25. Mr. LAVROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the current cycle of meetings of the Commission on Transnational Corporations should be maintained. It would be wrong for the Council, on the same day that it established a special body to consider recommendations 2 and 8 of the Group of 18, to take a decision that would discriminate against one of the subsidiary bodies of the Council, all of which should be allowed to explain their positions to the special body. He therefore proposed that draft resolution E/1987/L.11 should be considered in the context of the work of that body.

26. Mr. DIECKMANN (Federal Republic of Germany) pointed out that if the practice of deferring action from one session to the next continued, a decision on biennialization would be postponed indefinitely.

27. Mr. MULLER (Budget Division) said that, since the proposal concerned eliminating a session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations in 1988, deferring a decision on that proposal until the first regular session of 1987 of the Economic and Social Council would have no impact on the financial savings already outlined.

28. Mr. NORRIS (United States of America), referring to draft resolution E/1987/L.11, which had been introduced by his delegation, said that the General Assembly and the Council had endorsed the concept of the biennialization of work in the economic and social fields. In 1986, the Commission on Transnational Corporations had itself adopted a decision accepting the principle. His delegation firmly believed that it was time to take action. The Group of 18, while calling for an economic and social study in its recommendation 8, had also urged that biennialization should be vigorously pursued; it clearly believed that that process should continue without delay and would not conflict with additional reform efforts. Biennialization of the meetings of the Commission was not intended to deter negotiations on a code of conduct, which could not be negotiated at regular sessions of the Commission no matter what their timing.

29. Mr. GORAJEWSKI (Poland) said that draft resolution E/1987/L.11 should be considered in conjunction with recommendation 2 of the Group of 18, and no action should be taken at the current session.

30. Mr. SCHUMANN (German Democratic Republic) said that the Commission on Transnational Corporations should continue to meet on an annual basis pending the outcome of the review of the recommendations of the Group of 18. Efforts to improve the work of the United Nations in the economic and social fields should not be used as an excuse for abolishing valuable international activities in those fields. Positive results already achieved must be safeguarded.

31. Mr. LICHTINGER (Observer for Mexico) said that in order for a satisfactory decision to be reached, the special body to be established to study the recommendations of the Group of 18 should first carry out a wide-ranging examination of the issues.

32. Mr. FIELD (United Kingdom) pointed out that the well-established principle of biennialization had already been accepted by the Commission on Transnational Corporations. It was now time to take a decision. No clear link had been established between the code of conduct and biennialization of meetings of the Commission. The code should not be used as a pretext for putting off a decision on biennialization.

33. Mr. VRAALSEN (Norway) said that the Group of 18 had made a point of emphasizing that biennialization should be vigorously pursued. A study of its recommendations should not be used as a pretext for postponing action on biennialization.

34. Mr. DE LA TORRE (Observer for Argentina) said that if delegations had a little more time for consultation, a consensus might be reached. He therefore felt that consideration should be given to the proposal made by the representative of India to postpone a decision on draft resolution E/1987/L.11 until the first regular session of 1987 of the Council.

35. The PRESIDENT suggested the adoption of the following draft decision:

> "The Council, having considered document E/1987/L.11, decides to defer action on that document, allowing delegations, if they so wish, to reintroduce the issue at the first regular session of 1987 under the existing item on transnational corporations or under any other item."

36. Mr. NORRIS (United States of America) said that since delegations might not have had time to discuss the issue fully, his delegation was willing to accept a consensus statement from the President on deferring action on the draft resolution to the next regular session of the Council, provided that that statement included an instruction to the Commission on Transnational Corporations to prepare at its thirteenth session a biennial programme of work, without prejudice to the Council's final decision on biennialization.

37. Mr. DASGUPTA (India) asked to see the proposal in writing.

38. Mr. LAVROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation would also like to see the proposal in writing. As it concerned the agenda of the thirteenth session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations, which had already been adopted by the Council, he inquired of the Secretariat what the consequences would be for the Commission's agenda of instructions to consider yet another matter.

39. Mr. GOMEZ (Department of International Economic and Social Affairs) said, in reply to the Soviet representative, that if the Council invited the Commission on Transnational Corporations to prepare a biennial programme of work at its thirteenth session, that would undoubtedly have some impact on the Commission's agenda, which was already set and for which all the documents had been prepared—including the programme narratives for the 1988-1989 programme budget. On the other hand, the Commission had been considering biennialization for some time and should therefore be able to comply with such a request. Only the Commission itself could assess the full impact.

40. Mr. LAVROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said it seemed to him that the United States wanted the Council to ask the Commission on Transnational Corporations to do what it would have done in any case, because the Commission would normally be considering the 1988 and 1989 programmes of work within the framework of the budget estimates for 1988-1989.

41. He repeated his request to see the latest United States proposal in writing.

42. The PRESIDENT asked the United States representative whether he could circulate his proposal to the Council.

43. Mr. NORRIS (United States of America) said that, taking into account the remarks made concerning draft resolution E/1987/L.11, his delegation proposed that the Council should adopt a draft decision along the following lines:

> "The Economic and Social Council,
>
> "Having considered draft resolution E/1987/L.11,
>
> "1. Decides to defer action on that document to the first regular session of 1987;
>
> "2. Requests the Commission on Transnational Corporations, when it receives the proposed programme of work of the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations for 1988-1989, to consider also, without prejudice to the final decision of

the Council, the possible adjustments that would be necessary if the Council should adopt a biennial cycle for the Commission's meetings."

The draft decision was adopted (decision 1987/110).

DRAFT RESOLUTION E/1987/L.12

44. Mr. ZAHID (Morocco), introducing draft resolution E/1987/L.12 on the commemoration of the adoption of the International Covenants on Human Rights, announced that Bolivia, Colombia, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, the Sudan and Venezuela had become sponsors. The text was intended as an appropriate response to paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 41/32. The sponsors hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus, since the Covenants were such an important part of the United Nations heritage.

Draft resolution E/1987/L.12 was adopted (resolution 1987/1).

DRAFT DECISION E/1987/L.14

45. Mr. DOLJINTSEREN (Observer for Mongolia), introducing draft decision E/1987/L.14 regarding the proclamation of an international literacy year, announced that Bolivia, Costa Rica, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Peru had joined the sponsors. It was hoped that the draft decision would be adopted by consensus, just as General Assembly resolution 41/118 had been.

Draft decision E/1987/L.14 was adopted (decision 1987/111).

Mr. Noworyta (Poland) took the Chair.

DRAFT DECISION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS 2 AND 8 OF THE GROUP OF 18 (A/41/49)

46. The PRESIDENT drew attention to the informal working paper which had been circulated to the Council, containing the text of the new compromise draft decision on the in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields, as called for in General Assembly resolution 41/213 and in recommendations 2 and 8 contained in the report of the Group of 18 (A/41/49). Noting that the text had been arrived at after long negotiations in which all had taken a constructive stance, he asked if it was acceptable to the Council.

47. Mr. VRAALSEN (Norway) proposed, in order to remedy the fact that one of the elements of recommendation 8 had not been included in the draft decision, that the introductory text should be amended to refer to the study not only of the "United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions" but also of "its support structures". Similarly, subparagraph (*j*) (i) should be amended to refer to information on the intergovernmental machinery "and its support structures".

48. Mr. DASGUPTA (India) proposed that, in order to avoid any ambiguity, subparagraph (*a*) should state that the Special Commission's proceedings would be governed "in all other respects by the relevant provisions of the rules of procedure of the Council".

49. Mr. NORRIS (United States of America) expressed his delegation's serious concerns regarding the terms of reference of the Special Commission that would be established under the draft decision, as defined in subparagraph (*a*). The Group of 18 had clearly indicated that the study should be carried out by a body of limited membership; unfortunately, the body envisaged in subparagraph (*a*) would be open to the full participation of all Member States, in direct violation of the spirit of the decisions of both the Group of 18 and the General Assembly. The suggested structure would only inhibit the Special Commission's work on a subject of the utmost importance.

50. The United States objected so strongly that it had considered opposing the draft decision. It would not do so, however, because it believed that even a bad start was better than none. None the less, it suggested further negotiations on subparagraph (*a*) since its current drafting indicated a lack of seriousness regarding the need to create an efficient process. Another decision taken earlier in the meeting had denied the United Nations an opportunity to save over $600,000, and also indicated a certain lack of seriousness by the members of the Council.

51. Mr. LABERGE (Canada) said that his delegation was also troubled by subparagraph (*a*), which was not consistent with the letter and spirit of General Assembly resolution 41/213 or of recommendation 8 of the Group of 18. What was most worrisome was the excessive attention to procedure at the expense of substance: there had been much wrangling to satisfy delegations that were likely to lose interest in the study, which would require hard work by people with the time and energy to make their way through the many documents on the Council and its subsidiary bodies. He supported the United States suggestion to make another attempt to improve the current drafting of subparagraph (*a*) of the draft decision.

52. Mr. LAVROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that he endorsed the amendments proposed by Norway. However, since the support structures in question were Secretariat structures, he suggested that the reference in both cases should be to "Secretariat support structures".

53. Mr. ELHASSAN (Sudan) said, regarding the Norwegian amendments as modified by the Soviet Union, that recommendation 8 itself referred only very marginally, almost as an afterthought by the Group of 18, to support structures, and did so only in paragraph (2) of the recommendation. Consequently, he did not see the need to include that element so prominently in the Council's text, especially since any study of United Nations structure and functions would necessarily concern itself also with the Secretariat support involved.

54. Regarding subparagraph (*a*), the reason for having an open-ended body was precisely to avoid procedural wrangling. His delegation saw no automatic link between the number of members and the efficiency of a body; the recent restructuring exercise undertaken by the group of the whole of the General Assembly was a case in point. He urged acceptance of the draft decision as it stood.

55. Mr. VRAALSEN (Norway) said, in reply to the representative of the Sudan, that it was indeed possible to study international machinery without studying the support structures. He could, moreover, assure him that the sentence in paragraph (2) of recommendation 8, calling for a study of support structures, had not been included as an afterthought by the Group of 18.

56. He fully accepted the addition proposed by the Soviet representative.

57. Mr. DE CLERCK (Belgium) asked for a short suspension of the meeting to allow him to consult with the other States members of the European Economic Community, particularly with regard to subparagraph (*a*), which was at variance with what was requested of the Council by the General Assembly and with the understanding reached the previous day.

The meeting was suspended at 7.15 p.m. and resumed at 7.25 p.m.

58. Mr. DE CLERCK (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the 12 members of the European Economic Community, said that the Twelve had insisted from the beginning that the Special Commission should be of limited membership. The General Assembly had accepted that. The proposal before the Council for an open-ended membership was in line with neither the spirit nor the letter of paragraph 1 (*c*) of section I of General Assembly resolution 41/213. However, the Twelve could accept the new wording of subparagraph (*a*) of the draft decision if the following were included as subparagraph (*b*) of the draft decision: "That the Special Commission should, in undertaking its task, establish, as appropriate, drafting or working groups". He proposed that in subparagraph (*k*) the last phrase should be amended to read: "... to operate with sufficient frequency already in the first half of 1987 to fulfil its mandate in the limited time available".

59. The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision as amended by the representatives of Norway, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, India and Belgium.

It was so decided (decision 1987/112).

60. Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) thanked the Council for appointing him Chairman of the Special Commission. In particular, he wished to thank the African States and the Group of 77. He looked forward to the contribution of the Secretariat, which would be of vital importance.

61. Mr. VALDEZ (Peru) said that his delegation had joined in the consensus on the text of the decision on the understanding that the proposed study would be in keeping with the objective of establishing the new international economic order. The decision just adopted allocated some aspects of recommendation 8 of the Group of 18 to other bodies of the General Assembly. Those outstanding aspects should be the subject of a Council decision.

62. Mr. SCOTT (United States of America) congratulated the representative of Egypt and said that the United States looked forward to good results from the work of the Special Commission.

63. Mr. WANG Baoliu (China) congratulated the representative of Egypt, and pointed out that while China had joined in the consensus, it had its own interpretation of recommendation 8 of the Group of 18.

64. Mr. LAVROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that while the preparation of the decision had been complex, he had had no doubt about its adoption. He expressed best wishes to the representative of Egypt, and hoped that the Council would appoint the other members of the Bureau of the Special Commission as easily. He also hoped that the decision just taken would not be an impediment to the implementation of other measures to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations economic and social structures.

65. Mr. ANDRADE DÍAZ-DURÁN (Observer for Guatemala), speaking as Chairman of the Group of 77, congratulated the representative of Egypt and paid a tribute to the spirit of co-operation displayed by all delegations. The formal statement made earlier in the meeting on behalf of the Group of 77 reflected the concern of developing countries for promoting the new international economic order.

66. Mr. DE CLERCK (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the 12 members of the European Economic Community, congratulated the representative of Egypt. The Twelve noted with satisfaction the interest of all delegations in the work of the Special Commission, which they hoped would be in line with the terms of paragraph (3) of recommendation 8 of the Group of 18.

67. Mrs. CARRASCO (Bolivia) congratulated the representative of Egypt. It was her delegation's understanding that the wo[illegible] of the Council would not be impaired by that of the Special Commission, which would have its own funds.

68. The PRESIDENT, after congratulating the representative of Egypt on his appointment as Chairman of the Special Commission, said that, if there were no objections, he would take it that the Council decided to take note of the list of questions for inclusion in the programme of work of the Council for 1988 (E/1987/1/Add.1), as orally revised in the course of the deliberations.

It was so decided (decision 1987/108, sect. II).

69. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda items 2 and 3.

Closure of the session

70. The PRESIDENT commended the members of the Council for performing a good job and achieving good results, and declared the organizational session for 1987 closed.

The meeting rose at 8 p.m.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF 1987

Summary records of the 5th to 19th plenary meetings, held at Headquarters, New York, from 4 to 29 May 1987

5th meeting

Monday, 4 May 1987, at 11.10 a.m.

President: Mr. Eugeniusz NOWORYTA (Poland)

E/1987/SR.5

Opening of the session

1. The PRESIDENT declared open the first regular session of 1987 of the Economic and Social Council.

Election of a Vice-President

2. The PRESIDENT informed the Council that Mr. Aneesuddin Ahmed (Pakistan) had resigned from his office as Vice-President of the Council and that Mr. Muhammad Nasser Mian (Pakistan) had been nominated to replace him.

Mr. Muhammad Nasser Mian (Pakistan) was elected Vice-President by acclamation.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (E/1987/30, E/1987/32, E/1987/L.16, E/1987/L.17/Rev.1, E/1987/L.18, E/1987/L.19)

3. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the provisional agenda for the session (E/1987/30), drawn up on the basis of Council decision 1987/108, and drew attention to two additional questions which were not included in it.

4. The first question concerned assistance for the reconstruction of Vanuatu. He drew attention to paragraphs 2 to 4 of the note by the Bureau on the organization of the work of the session (E/1987/L.16), concerning the request by the Government of Vanuatu for the convening of a special session of the Council and the Government's subsequent decision to withdraw that request. After consultations with the representative of Vanuatu, the Bureau recommended that the question of assistance for the reconstruction of Vanuatu should be considered under item 16, entitled "Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance".

5. The second question concerned a proposal to amend the rules of procedure of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award, discussed in a note by the Secretariat (E/1987/L.18). He suggested that that question should be considered at a later date under item 1.

6. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the provisional agenda contained in document E/1987/30, on the understanding that the question of assistance for the reconstruction of Vanuatu would be considered under item 16 and that the question of the rules of procedure of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award would be considered under item 1.

The agenda was adopted.

7. The PRESIDENT drew attention to a note by the Bureau (E/1987/L.16) containing the proposed schedule of work for the session and a note by the Secretariat (E/1987/L.17/Rev.1) on the state of preparedness of documentation for the session. He drew attention also to a note by the Secretariat (E/1987/L.19) informing the Council of a request from the Director-General of UNESCO to defer consideration of the question of an international literacy year until the second regular session of 1987. He suggested that that request should be taken up when the Council considered agenda item 6, entitled "International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights".

8. In its report to the Council (E/1987/32), the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations recommended that the Council consider a question entitled "Role of local self-government in development: a world-wide declaration on local self-government" under agenda item 10, entitled "Public administration and finance".

9. The Council would consider the draft biennial calendar of conferences and meetings for 1988-1989 at its second regular session of 1987; consequently, all decisions to be taken with respect to meetings in 1988 and 1989 should be deferred until that session. However,

decisions concerning meetings to be held in 1987 should be taken during the current session.

10. The Bureau wished to draw attention to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 39/217, which stipulated that all requests for Secretariat reports to be submitted to the Second Committee of the General Assembly should conform to the Committee's biennial programme of work, except where the urgency of the subject-matter required otherwise.

11. Finally, with regard to statements in exercise of the right of reply, the Bureau recommended that the Council should follow the procedure established in recent years: statements should be made at the end of days on which two meetings had been scheduled for consideration of the same item, and delegations should limit their statements at any given meeting to two per item, with the first statement limited to five minutes and the second to three minutes.

12. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Council) announced that agenda item 9, entitled "Transport of dangerous goods", would be considered in plenary meeting on the morning of 19 May and the afternoon of 20 May. The schedule of meetings for the session had been planned well in advance in order to make optimum use of conference-servicing facilities. While the length of the session was the same as in previous years, the number of scheduled meetings accounted for only one third of the meeting time allocated to the Council. He urged the Council to adhere to the programme of work, as it would not be possible to reschedule any cancelled meetings.

13. Considerable progress had been made in ensuring the availability of documents for the session at an early date. The reports of some intergovernmental meetings might be published late, but this was because those meetings themselves had only recently concluded.

14. Since the second regular session of 1987 was to be held several weeks earlier than usual, it was the Secretariat's intent, based on decisions taken by the Council at its organizational session for 1987, to issue the provisional agenda for the second regular session before the close of the current session, even though that provisional agenda would not be formally approved until the close of the current session. If successful, the practice might be continued.

15. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it the Council wished to approve the programme of work contained in document E/1987/L.16, as orally revised by the Secretary of the Council and by the President himself, including the question of the role of local self-government in development, which would be considered under agenda item 10.

It was so decided.

16. Mr. VAN LIEROP (Observer for Vanuatu) read out a statement by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade of the Republic of Vanuatu expressing gratitude on behalf of the Government and people of Vanuatu for the international community's support for the country's reconstruction effort following the recent cyclone there. The damage wrought by the cyclone had been extensive, leaving no sector untouched, and the Government faced serious difficulties in financing the country's reconstruction, given that property damage alone amounted to roughly 10 times the national budget.

17. Offers of assistance in the form of money, relief supplies and other materials had already been received from a number of countries and international organizations. The Government was in the process of finalizing a five-year reconstruction programme and would meet with interested organizations at Port Vila in June 1987 to seek funding for that programme. He therefore urged Council members to consider Vanuatu's position in a sympathetic light and provide appropriate and significant assistance.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (E/1987/29 and Add.1 and 2, E/1987/31 and Add.1, E/1987/66)

18. Mr. JONAH (Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Co-ordination of Activities relating to the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination) said it was unfortunate that, halfway through the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the goal of eliminating racism and racial discrimination had not been achieved. It was also regrettable that the current financial difficulties of the United Nations had prevented the Secretary-General from implementing all the programmes called for under the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.[1] Although the General Assembly had appealed to Member States to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade, sufficient contributions had not yet been received, and the Secretary-General invited Council members to suggest ways of tackling that problem. The documents before the Council relating to the item under consideration included the Secretary-General's report prepared in accordance with paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 41/94 and paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 39/16 (E/1987/29 and Add.1 and 2[2]), which listed activities that Governments and other bodies had undertaken in the context of the Decade. Document E/1987/66 concerned a training course for legislative draftsmen which was scheduled to be held in New York in 1987. Current financial constraints threatened to prevent the course from taking place, and he therefore joined the Secretary-General in appealing for urgent contributions to facilitate its holding. Finally, in document E/1987/31 and Add.1 the Secretary-General presented information obtained from various bodies within the United Nations system that might assist the Council and the General Assembly in finalizing a programme of action for the second half of the Decade. It was to be hoped that a programme could be devised that would meet with the approval of all States.

19. Miss DEVER (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community, said that those countries systematically and unequivocally rejected all forms of racial discrimination and therefore supported efforts by the international community and the United Nations to eliminate those phenomena. However, while the first Decade for Action to

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[1] General Assembly resolution 38/14, annex.

[2] A new addendum (E/1987/29/Add.3) to the report was issued on 23 September 1987.

Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had demonstrated the desire of States to intensify the fight against all forms of racism, the proclamation of the Second Decade indicated that much remained to be done. No society was entirely free from manifestations of racism and racial discrimination, and the States members of the European Community believed that the success of the Second Decade was contingent upon the implementation by Governments of national policies to combat those evils.

20. The Secretary-General's reports to the General Assembly at its forty-first session (A/41/551) and to the Economic and Social Council (E/1987/29 and Add.1 and 2) on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade showed the extent to which the various agencies of the United Nations system had incorporated Decade activities into their programmes of work. The States members of the European Community were also actively involved in programmes set up under the Second Decade, as was indicated in the Secretary-General's report on Decade activities (E/1987/29).

21. In February 1987, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights had proposed a number of new activities (E/1987/31, annex I), and it was to be hoped that several of them would be carried out as swiftly as possible. She hoped that the standstill in Decade activities was simply due to the current economic situation and that the international community would endeavour to see that those efforts were continued.

22. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[3] was a seminal instrument in the fight against racism, and had been signed by 124 States. In 1986, those States had been informed that the meetings of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination might be jeopardized because 60 per cent of States had not paid their dues.

23. Since then, a meeting had had to be cancelled, and the General Assembly had adopted by consensus resolution 41/105, which urged States Parties to the Convention to fulfil their obligations and requested the Secretary-General to call them to a meeting. The Twelve were grateful to the Secretary-General for having made it possible for the Committee to meet in March 1987.

24. The States members of the Community welcomed the announcements by many delegations at the recent meeting of the States parties, that their overdue contributions were being paid, and endorsed the appeal made at the meeting for all States parties to pay their dues so that the Committee could meet and continue its vital work. They understood from the Secretariat that the funds needed in order to hold the August meeting would be forthcoming by June 1987.

25. While no country was safe from signs of racism, it was quite another thing to institutionalize inequality, discrimination and injustice and to build a State on those foundations, as in South Africa's tragic case. *Apartheid,* which the Twelve had consistently and categorically denounced, was inflicting untold misery on the majority of the South African people. The past 18 months, with the state of emergency, had seen the prospects for peaceful change dwindle rather than grow. One recent development that was a source of increasing concern to the Twelve was the detention of children and young people, thousands of whom were detained without due process in prisons and police stations. The situation was made even more horrific by the South African authorities' repression of gestures of solidarity with the detainees. The Twelve fully supported the statement by the President of the Security Council[4] voicing the Council's grave concern and indignation at the South African authorities' decree of 10 April 1987 prohibiting all forms of protest against detentions without trial and of support for detainees.

26. The Twelve supported the abolition of the *apartheid* system through a process of peaceful change, and had put together a number of selective restrictions on trade with South Africa. The European Community and its member States were implementing positive measures within the framework of active support for non-violent anti-*apartheid* organizations. The Twelve were still convinced that striking up a national dialogue with the rightful leaders of the various sectors of society was vital in order to stop a spiral of violence and to enable negotiations to be held, leading to a truly democratic and non-racialist South Africa.

AGENDA ITEM 5

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

27. Mr. NYAMEKYE (Deputy Director of the Centre for Human Rights) said that since May 1986, Argentina, the Philippines and Democratic Yemen had become parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[5] bringing the total number of ratifications or accessions to the Covenant to 86. In addition, Argentina had become a party to the Optional Protocol to the Covenant[5] and Argentina and the Philippines, as well as Belgium, had made the declaration concerning inter-State complaints envisaged under article 41 of the Covenant, bringing the total number of States that had done so to 21.

28. During the past year, the Human Rights Committee established by the Covenant had not managed to remain entirely unscathed by the financial crisis, and had had to cancel one of its three scheduled sessions in 1986. He was glad to note that under the approved calendar of conferences for 1987, the normal pattern of the Committee's sessions had been restored.

29. The problem of overdue reports, common to all the international human rights instruments, had also become a matter of growing concern to the Human Rights Committee, which had agreed that the matter should be discussed at the meeting of Chairpersons of the various human rights monitoring bodies to be convened by the Secretary-General in 1988. It had also decided to take certain immediate measures, such as the dispatch of a letter from the Chairman of the Committee to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of States parties whose initial reports were overdue. At the same session, a statement had also been adopted relating to the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The Committee's views had been incorporated in document E/1987/31 and Add.1, which con-

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[3] General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[4] See *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 1987,* p. 8.

[5] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

tained the Secretary-General's report outlining a proposed plan of activities for 1990-1993, the second half of the Decade.

30. Regarding general comments under article 40, paragraph 4, of the Covenant, he reminded members of the Council that a general comment dealing with the position of aliens under the Covenant[6] had been circulated at the first regular session of 1986 of the Council. Although no new general comments had been adopted by the Committee since that time, the Committee's Working Group had begun consideration of a draft general comment relating to article 17 of the Covenant (right to privacy).

31. In its 10 years of existence, the Committee had considered a grand total of 69 initial reports, 13 supplementary reports and 16 second periodic reports. It had adopted 76 final views out of some 227 complaints received so far under the Optional Protocol, as well as 15 general comments. Those statistics conveyed a limited idea of the extent of the Committee's valuable activities, which were focused on the establishment and development of a close, continuing and constructive dialogue with all States parties concerning the implementation of the Covenant.

AGENDA ITEM 6

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/1987/59, E/1987/L.15, E/1987/L.19)

32. Mr. NYAMEKYE (Deputy Director of the Centre for Human Rights) said that the Council would be considering for the first time a substantive report (E/1987/L.15[7]) on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[5] submitted by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights established pursuant to Council resolution 1985/17. In addition, the Council had before it, in accordance with its resolution 1988 (LX), the reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant, as well as the report submitted by the ILO (E/1987/59, annex), the summary records of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the report of the Director-General of UNESCO (see E/1987/L.19) prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 41/118.

33. States parties to the Covenant were bound not only to report on measures taken individually, but also to work together through international co-operation and assistance for the realization of the rights contained in the Covenant. It was within that framework that the Council could make general recommendations and promote international action, an example of which had been the Council's decision to include in the agenda of its first regular session of 1987, under item 6, consideration of the question of proclaiming 1989 International Literacy Year and to make recommendations thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-second session.

34. At its first session, from 9 to 27 March 1987, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had considered 11 reports submitted by 8 States parties. The Committee's report on its activities, which was now under consideration by the Council, included a summary of its consideration of the reports submitted by States parties, and suggestions and recommendations of a general nature based on its consideration of those reports. Owing to the limited time available to it at its first session, the Committee had not been able to consider all the reports submitted, and had held seven over until its second session.

35. The Committee stressed that the fulfilment of reporting obligations by States parties was vital in assessing the implementation of the Covenant. The Committee had formulated concrete proposals on that issue for consideration by the Council. It also stressed the importance of submitting reports on time. There was a total of 122 overdue reports under the three stages of the programme.

36. The Committee had also made a recommendation concerning the contents of the reports, and had decided to consider at its next session the revision and improvement of the reporting guidelines. It had also formulated a number of suggestions and recommendations of a general nature concerning the sources and availability of information to the Committee, including the role of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council, as well as recommendations dealing with future sessions of the Committee.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.

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[6] E/1986/16, annex.

[7] Preliminary unedited version; the final version was subsequently issued as document E/1987/28-E/C.12/1987/5.

6th meeting

Tuesday, 5 May 1987, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. Eugeniusz NOWORYTA (Poland)

E/1987/SR.6

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

Statement by the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna and Head of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs

1. Miss ANSTEE (Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna and Head of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that the reorganization at Vienna was intended to provide a coherent framework for activities relating to social policy and development. Co-ordination of economic activities would be ensured through co-operation

with the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs.

2. Social policy and development were essential elements in enabling the United Nations to continue playing a key role in the world community. The decisions that would be taken at the current session of the Council in the context of the comprehensive reform of the United Nations currently taking place would make an important contribution to refining social activities. The current world situation was such that the direction to be followed by the international community was not clear; indeed, multilateralism and international agreement on development had been eroded. The stalemate threatened the process of development and could lead to a dangerous deterioration in living conditions in many parts of the world. It was imperative for the United Nations to point the way out of the impasse and create a new working consensus on economic and social issues.

3. Economic changes in recent decades had had profound social consequences. A number of factors such as indebtedness and declining commodity prices, had had an adverse effect on development, and societies, including those in industrialized countries, were being forced to adjust to changes in the international economy. Accordingly, social problems and policies were priority items for many countries, and since all countries were affected by them, the time was ripe for the United Nations to play an important catalytic role.

4. Over the past decade, many social issues, such as the adjustment process, crime, drug trafficking and migration, had been seen as international in scope. Moreover, the rapid evolution of global communications and transport had blurred national boundaries, with the result that domestic social policies in one country had implications for others. Indeed, many social issues had emerged as common to all, offering a chance to exploit multilateralism at the point where it was strongest. Such issues, on which countries could agree and take action, were becoming the sinews that held the international community together.

5. One positive factor was that there was now agreement on social policy objectives, as embodied in instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.[8] The real question today was how to attain those objectives. In that connection, the Commission on the Status of Women had drawn up a long-term programme of work on priority themes, and the Commission for Social Development had taken decisions to thoroughly examine its methods of work. The Secretary-General had conducted his own examination of activities in crime prevention and criminal justice, in preparation for the Eighth Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. Similar reflection would undoubtedly take place in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at its meeting in Vienna in May 1987. Nevertheless, there was still a need to explore new policies, and all the subsidiary bodies of the Council dealing with social policy were engaged in exploring new options in response to changing needs. A major element in that effort was the periodically published Report on the World Social Situation. The forthcoming Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes would also have an important contribution to make.

6. As part of the reform of social policy-making, the Council should review the political aspects of issues which had already been considered from a technical standpoint by its subsidiary bodies. The Secretariat would continue to provide the Council with a basis for deliberation by marshalling facts and presenting them in objective analyses, and to that end would take advantage of reorganized structures to improve the quality of its support.

7. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs had enhanced its role as a substantive secretariat to major international events and intergovernmental bodies. There was now a need for a conceptual reorganization of the major themes that the Centre had dealt with over the past 15 years, so as to construct a comprehensive and integrated social development framework. In its role as a focal point, the Centre would seek to develop contacts with government departments and non-governmental organizations, and would work closely with Member States and other elements of the United Nations system. It had streamlined its procedures for appraising requests for assistance for the aging, youth and disabled persons, and had processed $1.2 million in project funding requests and recommended matching grants of $US 240,000 from the various trust funds for those groups. The Centre hoped that Member States could increase their contributions to the trust funds in a significant, continuous and predictable manner. The Centre was also seeking to strengthen the links between global and regional policy analyses. Success would attend those endeavours if the most important issues were identified and a basis for informal discussion established so that intergovernmental bodies could take the decisions needed by the world.

AGENDA ITEMS 2, 5 AND 6

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*) (E/1987/29 and Add.1 and 2, E/1987/31 and Add.1, E/1987/66)

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (*continued*)

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (*continued*) (E/1987/59, E/1987/L.15, E/1987/L.19)

8. Mr. QUINN (Australia) said that the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination[1] remained a relevant framework. In devising guidelines for the second half of the Decade, account should be taken of the current difficult financial environment and of the various reform initiatives under way within the Organization. The Second Decade should be seen as a system-wide activity, involving all relevant bodies. In that connection, co-ordination between the Centre for Human Rights and other elements of the system was crucial.

9. Given the limited resources available, elements of the programme to be undertaken must be cost-effective. His delegation noted increasing support for training courses rather than seminars, which involved greater expenditure and were less practical. It was un-

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[8] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

likely that the Voluntary Fund for the Decade would attract enough funding to sustain ambitious programmes, although it could assist with catalytic projects that acted as a model to Member States.

10. Development of a plan of activities under the Decade must take account of broader developments in the human rights programme, which, after focusing on international standard-setting and developing various forms of international machinery, was now concentrated on practical action at the national level to implement international laws. Australia endorsed the attachment of priority to such tasks as developing national human rights machinery and promoting the teaching of human rights. Further, the parlous state of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination must be addressed.

11. With reference to the specific proposals made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights (E/1987/31, annex I), his delegation was concerned by the selectivity, deficiencies and limited relevance of the study prepared by Mr. Khalifa on international action against *apartheid*. Australia would have preferred more imaginative proposals, relating, for example, to the impact of the media blackout and the large-scale detention of children.

12. His delegation believed that attitudes, particularly those of young people, must be changed if racial discrimination and prejudice were to be eliminated, and therefore welcomed the emphasis placed in part B of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination[1] on the development of teaching materials to combat racism. In that connection, the draft teaching manual prepared by the Centre for Human Rights, which contained a section on racism, should be finalized as soon as possible and disseminated widely. As for the proposed round table of experts to discuss the preparation of teaching materials, he suggested that a less costly training course might build more effectively on existing resources and programmes. Effective use had not been made of the considerable resources of the Department of Public Information in fostering international awareness of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[3] and other key human rights instruments. The Centre for Human Rights should bear in mind the need to use audio-visual and other modern media to reach a wider audience, including children and those with limited educational opportunities. It was also to be hoped that the Centre's presentation of public information materials on Human Rights Day in 1987 would involve Member States, non-governmental organizations and interested individuals and would yield useful ideas for the promotion of awareness of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

13. A meeting of experts had been proposed to review the operation of article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.[5] However, it might be more appropriate for the Human Rights Committee to give special consideration to that topic during the second half of the Decade, 1990-1993, when it considered the periodic reports of States parties to the Covenant. Care should be taken to co-ordinate any Decade activities relating to the rights of indigenous populations with the work done by the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

14. He welcomed the attention paid in part E of the Programme of Action[1] to the development of national recourse procedures for victims of racial discrimination; however, with regard to the conducting of a global survey, a wealth of material was already available for analysis in the reports submitted by States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). Perhaps CERD might pay special attention to that issue during the second half of the Decade and prepare a general comment on the subject. The central role of CERD in the Programme of Action must be maintained. Given the current financial crisis facing the Committee, a special meeting of States parties to the Convention should be convened to review that instrument and consider the adoption of additional protocols.

15. Part G of the Programme of Action,[1] which dealt with national legislation and institutions to eliminate discrimination, was perhaps the most important element of the Programme. He welcomed the regional approach adopted by the Secretariat in its draft proposals and urged that the proposed follow-up seminar on community relations commissions be held.

16. As the resources of the Centre for Human Rights were extremely limited, any future studies, seminars and research should be undertaken by UNITAR or the United Nations University, and should focus on developing concrete measures at the national level. He endorsed the acknowledgement of the key role of non-governmental organizations in disseminating information about racism and assisting victims of discrimination.

17. Mr. AKYOL (Turkey) said that his Government was deeply committed to the goals of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and was therefore concerned that they were far from being achieved. In some cases, recognized national minorities protected under international agreements continued to be deprived of their fundamental rights.

18. In the specific case of South Africa, world public opinion had grown more insistent in calling for a radical change in that country's policies. Recent constitutional changes in South Africa had only led to further frustration on the part of the black population, while the occasional sham reforms only led to increased violence and repression and, consequently, opposition on the part of the majority. A firm response from the United Nations was therefore more necessary than ever.

19. His delegation endorsed the Declaration adopted by the World Conference on Sanctions against Racist South Africa.[9] However, acknowledging that much remained to be done to eliminate *apartheid* and racial discrimination, his delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's report outlining the activities for the second half of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (E/1987/31 and Add.1). He expressed particular support for activities relating to education, teaching and training, as well as those relating to information and respect for the human rights and

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[9] *Report of the World Conference on Sanctions against Racist South Africa, Paris, 16-20 June 1986* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.I.23), chap. IX.

dignity of migrant workers. Continued international co-operation was of vital importance in ensuring that those activities were carried out.

20. Mr. CONSTANTINESCU (Romania) expressed concern at the fact that, despite all efforts by the United Nations, millions of human beings continued to suffer from various forms of racial discrimination. The situation was particularly blatant in South Africa: following the imposition of a state of emergency in 1986, there had been a dramatic escalation of human rights violations in the country. Action must be taken to improve economic, political, social and cultural conditions in South Africa in order to eliminate inequalities in South African society. A free flow of information about ways of combating racism might also contribute significantly to the international community's efforts to achieve the goals of the Second Decade. The people of South Africa must be allowed to participate freely in shaping their own future, an imperative which must be duly reflected in any measures adopted by the international community.

21. While an increasing number of Member States had come to support the imposition of sanctions against South Africa, some permanent members of the Security Council, regrettably, refused to do so. It was therefore quite natural that the international community should continue to attach highest priority to programmes sponsored by the United Nations to combat racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*. His delegation firmly supported such efforts and wished to assure the peoples of South Africa and Namibia of Romania's assistance and militant solidarity in their just struggle for freedom and independence.

22. Mr. TANIGUCHI (Japan) said that South Africa's policy of *apartheid* was a particularly abhorrent manifestation of racism. The situation in that country had worsened during the past year; most recently, South Africa had violated the Zambian border and launched an attack on the town of Livingstone, an action which the Japanese Government vehemently condemned. South Africa must realize that peace and stability would not be restored until its policy of *apartheid* was abolished. South Africa must also suspend the state of emergency at once, unconditionally release Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners and lift the ban on anti-*apartheid* organizations.

23. The Japanese Government had sought to promote a political dialogue with black leaders of southern Africa. Japan was also helping to train young black South Africans and Namibians to assume positions of leadership in their respective countries and was stepping up its economic assistance to the front-line States.

24. With regard to the proposed plan of activities to be implemented during the second half of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, it was unfortunate that the Secretary-General had been unable to issue a report containing the views and suggestions of such bodies as the Commission on Human Rights, CERD and the Human Rights Committee. It was of crucial importance that activities should be conducted in the areas of education, teaching, training, dissemination of information and international co-operation. The importance of long-term educational programmes and public information campaigns to promote international understanding of human rights could not be over-emphasized.

25. His delegation welcomed the establishment of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and stressed the importance of its role in ensuring the effective implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.[5] He urged States parties to the Covenant and the specialized agencies to give full support to the Committee.

26. Mr. MAKSIMOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the active support given to the South African racist régime by certain Governments, transnational corporations, banks and other financial institutions was the principal obstacle to the elimination of *apartheid*. Significantly, the States which saw the racist régime as their "historical ally" had not become parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[3] and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*.[10]

27. The Byelorussian SSR strictly implemented General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and decisions concerning the *apartheid* régime, and it had no ties whatsoever with the Republic of South Africa. The Byelorussian SSR supported the call for effective measures to end the activities of transnational corporations, banks and other organizations, and the suppression of any attempts to render assistance to the racist Pretoria régime. In that connection, it commended the report of the Special Rapporteur on the adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to the racist and colonialist régime of South Africa (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1987/8/Rev.1). The widest possible dissemination of his annual list and report should be an important element in the plan of activities for the remaining years of the Second Decade, 1990-1993. The Byelorussian SSR supported the proposal to hold a seminar of experts under the auspices of the Commission on Human Rights in order to evaluate the experience gained in the compilation of the annual list. Part F of the Programme of Action[1] contained an appeal to States which had not yet done so to become parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; as part of the activities for 1990-1993, information should be provided about the accession of those countries to the Convention.

28. Racism and racial discrimination were not limited to southern Africa. Gross violations of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the International Covenants were taking place in the occupied Arab territories. The Byelorussian SSR was in favour of the convening of an international conference on the Middle East, with the participation of all interested parties, in order to find a solution to the critical situation in the region.

29. The Byelorussian SSR had been one of the first States to become a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Its citizens enjoyed equal rights and freedoms, irrespective of their racial or ethnic origin, and its regular national reports on the implementation of the Convention were well received by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. In accordance with the provisions of the Convention, the Constitution of the Byelorussian SSR provided for the pros-

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[10] General Assembly resolution 3068 (XXVIII), annex.

ecution of citizens, groups or organizations that incited racial or national hatred.

30. At the forty-first session of the General Assembly, the socialist countries had introduced an item on a comprehensive system of international security. That item was in keeping with the objectives and principles of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The decisions which the Council took at its current session should comply with those objectives.

31. Mr. GORAJEWSKI (Poland) expressed Poland's solidarity with all those struggling to eliminate racism and racial discrimination and with all victims of violence and repression all over the world. It supported all international endeavours to put an end to the diabolical system of *apartheid*, and it had neither diplomatic nor economic relations with South Africa. Education on the evils of *apartheid* was provided by the Polish mass media and through the public education system. Poland had acceded both to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*[10] and to the International Convention against *Apartheid* in Sports.[11]

32. His delegation endorsed the Secretary-General's report (E/1987/13) on the implementation of the recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons established to conduct the public hearings on the activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia; the recommendations were very pertinent to the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.[1] His delegation was also in favour of appealing to States which had not yet done so to become parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[3] and supported the proposal that a special meeting of States parties should be held to assess experience gained in implementing the Convention. As an alternative to holding a seminar, as proposed in Part H of the Programme of Action,[1] such a meeting might discuss the main obstacles to the complete eradication of racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*.

33. His Government supported comprehensive and mandatory sanctions as the most appropriate and effective way in which the international community could assist in the legitimate struggle of the oppressed people of South Africa. His delegation shared the view expressed in paragraph 300 of the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/1987/L.15[7]) regarding the need for new efforts by all States towards universal accession and implementation of the Covenant. It also endorsed the Committee's recommendation that the Council reiterate its appeal to Member States to ratify or accede to it.

34. While his delegation was concerned about delays in the submission of reports by States parties, it was equally concerned about the work-load of the Committee, which was being snowed under with reports. As it could not deal with more than 12 in a three-week session, serious consideration must be given to revising the reporting procedures for the implementation of the Covenant laid down in Council resolution 1988 (LX), for example by extending the reporting period from three to five years in order to reduce the number of reports before the Committee to manageable proportions.

35. The question referred to in paragraph 322 of the Committee's report (E/1987/L.15[7]) touched upon questions both of legal principle and of practical approach. Non-governmental organizations were affiliated to the Council itself only, not to any of its subsidiary bodies, and for them to submit statements to the Committee would be inconsistent with paragraph 303 of its report, which referred to the Governments of the States parties.

36. Mr. ZVEZDIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the lofty ideals proclaimed by the United Nations over 40 years ago remained an unfulfilled dream for many of the world's five billion inhabitants. All countries, regardless of their social structure or political orientation, should uphold every individual's inalienable right to life, equality and adequate living conditions. The successful implementation of human rights depended primarily on the efforts undertaken at the national level, and how seriously the authorities of a country took the interests and requirements of its citizens.

37. The Soviet Union had achieved considerable success with regard to all categories of human rights — civil and political, economic, social and cultural — and that was why it strictly implemented the International Covenants on Human Rights[12] and presented reports on their implementation. The Soviet Union had adopted new approaches aimed at speeding up its economic and social development and inculcating democracy. *Glasnost* (openness) and democratic self-management were becoming firmly established principles. The January plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union had demonstrated that increased democracy was an indispensable condition for all change in the country.

38. The Soviet Union had begun to democratize the management of industry and strengthen the mechanisms for the expression of public opinion. It was also revising its electoral system and, at the same time, strengthening its legislation in the area of civil and personal rights and freedoms. That included reforms in the penal code which were aimed at humanizing the judicial process.

39. The Soviet Union considered international co-operation in the humanitarian sphere as one of the bases for a comprehensive system of international security, and had proposed that an international conference on a whole range of issues regarding co-operation in the humanitarian sphere should be held in Moscow. In making that proposal, the Soviet Union had been motivated by good intentions and respect for human rights.

40. Modern times required new approaches and methods in the solution of international problems, such as the strengthening of mutual understanding among peoples, the easing of international tension, the elimination of the growing threat of self-annihilation, and

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[11] General Assembly resolution 40/64 G, annex.

[12] International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI).

the safeguarding of the right to live in peace and freedom.

41. The principles and norms contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[8] and the International Covenants on Human Rights[12] were the outcome of many years of negotiations in which the opinions of States belonging to different social systems and regional groups had been taken into account. The Covenants reflected the international consensus on human rights, the principal criterion of which was the dignity of the human person. The first task of all States and of the United Nations was to ensure the universal recognition and implementation of the Covenants, and the Council should make an important contribution to that noble cause.

42. Mr. WIJEWARDANE (Sri Lanka) said that he was not surprised that the Programme of Action [1] gave priority to combating the evil system of *apartheid*, the disastrous consequences of which on human rights were well known. He was also glad to see that the Programme of Action would develop teaching for future citizens so that they might be alert to the resurgence of any form of institutionalized discrimination. The role of the mass media in combating racism and racial discrimination should be emphasized and made one of the main platforms of the programme for the Second Decade.

43. Attention must also be paid to ensuring the rights of minority groups and migrant workers. His delegation therefore appreciated the idea of a global survey to solicit information from non-governmental and other sources. Sri Lanka was committed to freedom and democracy, and supported non-discrimination in its health services, educational facilities, nutritional services and immunization programmes. He therefore called for material aid to support his Government in combating the campaign being waged against it by a racist, terrorist group, which was tearing apart the body politic of Sri Lanka and threatened to undo all the work done to build a democratic society where democratic elections, equality, freedom of speech and expression and the right of assembly were all assured. The country's ethnic and religious diversity and harmony were threatened by the terrorist group's ambition to establish a mono-ethnic, one-party, Fascist Government in the north and east of Sri Lanka.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

7th meeting

Wednesday, 6 May 1987, at 10.20 a.m.

President: Mr. Eugeniusz NOWORYTA (Poland)

E/1987/SR.7

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters *(continued)*

REQUESTS FOR HEARING BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (E/1987/75)

1. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/1987/75) and the recommendation of the Committee that the organizations listed in the report be heard in the Second (Social) Committee. If he heard no objection, he would take it the Council approved the recommendation.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEMS 2, 5 AND 6

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination *(continued)* (E/1987/29 and Add.1 and 2, E/1987/31 and Add.1, E/1987/66)

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights *(continued)*

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights *(continued)* (E/1987/59, E/1987/L.15, E/1987/L.19)

2. Mr. QUINN (Australia) underlined the importance of the first report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/1987/L.15[7]). The new Committee could give new impetus and juridical rigour to the important subject of economic, social and cultural rights, which had not so far been accorded the attention that it deserved either within or outside the United Nations system. While the Council had delegated to the new Committee responsibility for detailed examination of implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[5] by States parties, the Council must retain oversight of the Covenant, as stipulated therein, and ensure effective co-ordination within the United Nations system, as well as appropriate cross-organizational linkages, in activities related to economic, social and cultural rights.

3. Clearly, developments going on inside other bodies in charge of overseeing the implementation of treaties, such as the rationalization of reporting guidelines and the trend towards more standardized procedures for handling reports, were of direct relevance to the new Committee. Regrettably, the Committee had not been able to annex to the report recommendations relating to its future work. It did, however, seek specific guidance from the Council on several issues (*ibid.*, paras. 317-323). His delegation stressed the importance of the Council sending an appropriately strong message to States parties regarding the timely discharge of reporting obligations. The rationale behind the recommendations regarding the availability of information to the Committee was not only to ensure a more effective management of the Committee's heavy work-load, but also to ensure that its activities were better known throughout the United Nations system. The Council had an important role to play in encouraging the net-

working of efforts to promote and protect economic, social and cultural rights throughout the United Nations system.

4. Non-governmental organizations had an important role to play in generating momentum behind the new Committee, and the active role they played behind the scenes should be brought into the open by enabling them to submit written material.

5. With regard to the Committee's proposal that its next annual session be extended by one week, his delegation considered it preferable for the Committee to seek ways of expediting its consideration of reports, by imposing time-limits, co-ordinating questioning so as to avoid duplication, developing more specific reporting guidelines and making more use of supplementary reports. If such measures did not achieve the desired effect, an extension of the Committee's sessions might be considered in future. His delegation welcomed the Committee's proposal to set up a working group to improve its reporting guidelines: States parties needed more specific guidance regarding what was expected of them to facilitate the work not only of the Committee, but of all treaty-monitoring bodies. The compilation of recommendations which it had not been possible to annex to the report contained practical suggestions for improving the management of the Committee's business and touched upon such questions as the relationship between implementation of the Covenant and United Nations development activities. It would be useful if that compilation could be made available as a conference room paper.

6. Mr. TERNOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that the Byelorussian SSR, which had been a party to the International Covenants on Human Rights[12] since 1973, and regularly submitted national reports on its implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[5] to the Human Rights Committee, had always maintained that civil and political rights and economic and social rights were interdependent and inseparable.

7. The Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had stressed that the encouragement and implementation of human rights and basic freedoms were closely linked to the achievement of international peace, and that all peoples and individuals had an inalienable right to life. The safeguarding of that right in conditions of peace and freedom was an indispensable condition for the enjoyment of political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights. In that regard, it was important to bear in mind that the world economic crisis and the absence of an equitable and just economic order had a negative influence on the implementation of human rights in many countries, in particular the developing countries.

8. The Byelorussian SSR was currently implementing a comprehensive programme for improving the material and cultural level of the population. In particular, the Republic's social policies were aimed at solving the housing problem and improving education, health care and other important services.

9. Constructive co-operation in the field of human rights could not be promoted unless all States acceded to the International Covenants on Human Rights. The Byelorussian SSR therefore called upon all countries which had not yet done so to become parties to those important instruments.

10. Mr. KONATÉ (Senegal) said that to facilitate effective application of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[5] and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[5] better recognition of their provisions on the part of both individuals and groups and of Governments was required. Accordingly, it was important for the Council to focus on the provision of information, and to strengthen the consultative services of the Centre for Human Rights by increasing its financial and human resources. Information activities should help States parties to fulfil their obligations, which included the submission of periodic reports. The problem of late and missing reports, which, it was to be hoped, stemmed not from a lack of political will on the part of reporting States, but solely from material and logistic difficulties, needed careful examination, so as to analyse the various obstacles hampering States parties in the fulfilment of their obligations. Those obstacles included the lack of preparation and training of staff in the administrations of most developing countries; seminars such as the one on the preparation of reports held in Dakar in September-October 1986 for French-speaking African countries should continue, and should be supplemented by national workshops.

11. Ultimately, the effectiveness of implementation machinery in the field of human rights reposed in the capacity of the monitoring bodies to convince and influence States, and the Council should, more than ever, strengthen the authority of those bodies by giving them the necessary resources.

12. Senegal spared no efforts to fulfil its obligations under the two Covenants. The Human Rights Committee had recently examined Senegal's second periodic report and had noted with satisfaction all the efforts undertaken to ensure the effective implementation of human rights as a fundamental component of its national and international policy.

13. Regarding the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Council should, through the Commission on Human Rights, encourage dialogue and co-operation between States in the promotion of human rights. To that end, the Council should ensure that the work of the Human Rights Committee was given as much publicity as possible.

14. The Council should not neglect the regional approach to human rights, as that dimension would help the international community to take into account the various economic, social and cultural features of each country. The Council should also identify the obstacles to implementation of the various human rights instruments, so that concrete measures could be evolved within the framework of a constructive dialogue between the States parties. The Secretariat should prepare a global report on those obstacles, in order to assist the Council in making recommendations to the General Assembly. However, an objective assessment of the situation could only be made within the framework of a general debate, which would enable new perspectives to emerge. In that regard, his delegation would welcome the inclusion in the agenda for the Council's next session of an item on assessment of the various obstacles to the implementation of the provisions of the two Covenants.

15. His delegation wished to endorse some of the recommendations made by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in its report (E/1987/L.15[7]). The Committee needed to be able to count on the co-operation and assistance of the various specialized agencies, within their respective spheres of competence, and it was regrettable that some of the specialized agencies concerned had not been able to participate in the Committee's first session, or to provide reports to it. He hoped that the Committee could count on the collaboration of the specialized agencies in its future work and that the calendar of meetings could be adjusted so that overlap was avoided.

16. The role of non-governmental organizations in promoting and protecting human rights was now well recognized. Accordingly, with reference to the question raised in paragraph 322 of the Committee's report, his delegation felt that the Council should interpret resolution 1296 (XLIV) flexibly, so that such organizations could submit written statements in order to assist the Committee in its work.

17. The effective exercise of human rights required an environment conducive to the development of human dignity. It would, of course, be idealistic to believe that political and civil freedoms could flourish in a situation of poverty and underdevelopment, and equally so to think that the satisfaction of basic human needs would alone suffice to guarantee them. The Council should, nevertheless, seek to promote an environment conducive to the full exercise of human rights by proposing concrete measures designed to create the necessary conditions for human development. The existence of such an environment would both facilitate the work of the monitoring bodies and make it easier for States to discharge their reporting obligations.

18. Ms. YOUNG (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) said that the Covenants embodied age-old aspirations and demands, codified as human rights. They helped give effect to the commitment in Articles 55 and 56 of the Charter of the United Nations, and proclaimed high but attainable standards for the protection and promotion of human rights, as well as establishing machinery to examine the fulfilment by States parties of their international obligations. She reiterated the hope that more countries would ratify or accede to the Covenants and Optional Protocol, to make them truly universal.

19. However, ratification was not enough; implementation was the essential task. The Human Rights Committee and the recently established Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights were essential machinery for monitoring the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[5] and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.[5] The Human Rights Committee was well known for its expertise and objectivity and had consistently made important contributions to the implementation process. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had produced a valuable first report (E/1987/L.15[7]), containing useful recommendations, in particular on the preparation and content of reports of States parties, which should enable the Committee to function more effectively in future. Proper access to the Committee by non-governmental organizations, including the submission of written communications, would also be of great assistance.

20. The necessary resources must be made available to maintain the new Committee and the Human Rights Committee, and to prevent further cancellations of meetings such as had occurred in 1986. Expenditure on human rights programmes constituted less than 1 per cent of overall expenditure by the United Nations, and any cut in so small a budget risked causing disproportionate harm to its objectives. She hoped that the Secretariat would ensure that such an occurrence was not repeated.

21. Regarding the problem of overdue reports, which had been discussed at the previous week's meeting of States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, she stressed that the submission of reports and the dialogue between States parties and the different Committees during consideration of reports were a vital part of the implementation machinery. Her delegation therefore agreed with the Human Rights Committee that the matter should be one of the main topics for discussion at the meeting of persons chairing the human rights monitoring bodies.

22. For any United Nations human rights body, summary records were a voice to the outside world. Without them, that voice was effectively silenced. In the case of treaty-monitoring bodies, moreover, summary records increased not only their effectiveness, but also their cost-effectiveness. By setting out the precedents which each committee had established, the provision of summary records prevented duplication of work and allowed new members to benefit from the experience of their predecessors. The Secretariat should ensure that the necessary resources continued to be made available for that purpose.

23. Ms. DERMENDJIEVA (Bulgaria) said that universal accession to the International Covenants on Human Rights[12] was important because inability to become a party to the Covenants was frequently a direct indication of continuing and serious violations of human rights.

24. At its first session, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had made a number of general observations which could serve as a useful guide for the work of United Nations human rights bodies. For example, the Committee had stressed the close link between the achievement of international peace and the continuous promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The existence of such a link had long been upheld by Bulgaria and should be duly taken into account by all Member States.

25. The Committee had identified many problems which prevented the full implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It had underscored the need for a favourable international context, which could be achieved by narrowing and overcoming the gap between developing and developed countries and eliminating the heavy burden of external indebtedness which weighed upon the peoples of Latin America, Asia and Africa. The Committee had also stressed the importance of strengthening international co-operation for development and for the establishment of a just and equitable economic order.

26. Bulgaria attached equal importance to both Covenants and consistently strove to improve the legal, social and economic framework in which their provis-

ions were implemented. A parliamentary commission for the protection of public interests and the rights of Bulgarian citizens had recently been set up, with broad powers to take preventive and, when necessary, remedial action in the field of human rights, in accordance with the principles of equality, social justice and universal participation in the management of public affairs. That new development represented an important step in the promotion of the full enjoyment of human rights by all in Bulgaria.

27. Mrs. LAFORTUNE (Canada) said that her delegation was extremely pleased with the first report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/1987/L.15[7]). According to the report, the Committee had mapped out a programme of action to facilitate both the task of States parties in preparing reports and the task of the Council in reviewing the Committee's reports. In that regard, her delegation endorsed the recommendation that the Committee should be authorized to meet for up to four weeks at its next session. Since the number of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[5] had reached 90, the Committee would have a large number of reports to review. Moreover, the Committee might require a longer session in order to consider ways to improve the reporting guidelines.

28. Non-governmental organizations had a valuable role to play in the development and implementation of international human rights. Such organizations already provided information on an informal basis to members of committees established under human rights conventions, and, in principle, her delegation supported the suggestion that they should be permitted to submit written statements to the Committee. However, before Canada took a final position on the matter, it wished to know the financial implications of translating and distributing those statements as United Nations documents.

29. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was a fundamental human rights instrument, and Canada urged all States which had not yet done so to become parties to it. States must bear in mind that ratification of that Covenant entailed obligations, one of which was the preparation of reports. The Committee had expressed its concern about the non-submission and about delays in the submission of reports, and that should also be a matter of concern for the Council.

30. Mr. KIURU (Observer for Finland), speaking also on behalf of Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, said that the Nordic countries regretted that many Member States had not yet ratified or acceded to the International Covenants on Human Rights, and they urged those States Members which had not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Covenants. The Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[5] guaranteed individuals the right to complain to the Human Rights Committee regarding violations of the rights set forth in the Covenant, and it was regrettable that only 38 States had become parties to it. The Nordic countries called upon all States to reconsider their reasons for not acceding to that Protocol. The Nordic countries also supported the proposal for a second Optional Protocol aimed at the abolition of the death penalty.

31. The Nordic countries welcomed the establishment of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and supported the Committee's recommendations and suggestions regarding ways of improving its effectiveness. The fulfilment of reporting obligations was an essential element of States parties' co-operation in the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.[5] Reports submitted to the Committee should concentrate on the actual situation of States with regard to economic, social and cultural rights, and before each session, the Committee should draw up a schedule for the examination of national reports.

32. In accordance with interim arrangements, both the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights submitted to the Council for consideration their general comments on national reports. The Nordic countries were pleased that the Council had the opportunity to study and discuss those comments which had helped to elucidate the rights and duties laid down in the International Covenants on Human Rights.[12]

33. It was the duty of the United Nations to ensure that the committees were able to fulfil their mandates, and the international community should intensify its efforts to improve the capacity of the United Nations to respond properly and effectively to all violations of human rights wherever they occurred. That required effective machinery, political will and adequate resources. Above all, it required the full respect by Governments of their internationally assumed obligations to protect and promote the rights of individuals.

34. Mr. AGUILAR (Venezuela) recalled that, in its resolution 41/94, the General Assembly had decided that the international community, in general, and the United Nations, in particular, should continue to give the highest priority to programmes for combating racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*. All States should support that decision by furnishing the human and financial resources needed to implement those programmes.

35. It was obvious that the policies and practices of the *apartheid* régime were the principal cause of the critical domestic situation in South Africa which, together with the régime's attacks on front-line States, threatened international, as well as regional, peace and security. Recent developments in South Africa, including the reimposition of a state of emergency, the information black-out, the detention of children and the prohibition of demonstrations of solidarity, demonstrated clearly that Pretoria was not prepared to heed the voice of reason. His delegation therefore continued to support the imposition, as soon as possible, of appropriate sanctions against South Africa, as provided for in Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

36. His delegation supported the continuation of the measures to combat *apartheid,* identified in part A of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination,[1] as set out in the report of the Secretary-General (E/1987/31, annex I). Those activities, together with those relating to parts B and C, were of particular importance since the destruction of myths and prejudices and the provision of appropriate education for children and young people were essential in order to combat racism effectively.

37. In addition to the studies and meetings proposed in relation to part D of the Programme of Action, the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination should give special attention to the problems of minority groups, indigenous populations and migrant workers when considering the reports submitted to them by States parties. The Human Rights Committee might also prepare a general comment on article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.[5]

38. His delegation was pleased by the high number of States that had become parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[3] but was concerned at the implications for the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination of the Committee's current critical financial situation. The outcome of the recent meeting of States parties to the Convention had been positive in that a number of States had pledged to honour their outstanding commitments in the near future. It was to be hoped that the current situation might serve as a warning to States parties to pay their admittedly modest contributions on time in the future.

39. His delegation could support many of the measures proposed in relation to parts G-J of the Programme of Action. However, greater emphasis should be placed on the functioning of existing instruments to combat racial discrimination and on their implementation, and the necessary financial resources should be provided for the work of the bodies established under those instruments. He noted in that connection that the portion of the United Nations budget allocated for human rights activities amounted to less than 1 per cent of the total budget.

40. The recent accession to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[5] by three Member States was a welcome development, but the total number of States parties — 86 — was only slightly more than half the total number of States Members of the United Nations. Even more dismaying was the fact that the Optional Protocol[5] had been ratified by less than one fourth of all Member States. At the same time, his delegation noted with satisfaction that in 1987, unlike the previous year, it would be possible for all three regular sessions of the Human Rights Committee to be held. He expressed concern at the growing number of States parties experiencing delays in the submission of their reports to the Committee. The Council should encourage all States parties to the Covenant and other human rights instruments entailing similar reporting obligations to submit their periodic reports on time.

41. He welcomed the establishment of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and commended its full and instructive report on the work of its first session (E/1987/L.15[7]). Like the representative of Canada, he would welcome information on the financial implications of the submission by non-governmental organizations of written documents to the Committee.

42. Mr. OTT (German Democratic Republic) said that, as the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination[1] provided a clear indication of how existing manifestations of racism might be eliminated, Government leaders must demonstrate the political will to implement it.

43. It was more apparent than ever that *apartheid* was a cancer within the civilized world. The human rights violations which had been taking place in South Africa for decades had become even more shocking as violence escalated there and the country continued to carry out acts of aggression aimed at destabilizing neighbouring countries. Since the imposition of the state of emergency, the number of victims of police terror and persons detained had increased at an alarming rate. The situation in South Africa had indeed deteriorated to the point where the Government's crusade against the majority of the population could rightly be described as genocide.

44. His Government had condemned South Africa's recent attack on the town of Livingstone in Zambia as a criminal violation of international law. On the occasion of a visit to the German Democratic Republic by a delegation of high-ranking representatives of the front-line States, moreover, it had been agreed that *apartheid*, which could not exist without support from imperialist quarters, was the main obstacle to peaceful development in the southern African region and that it could not be reformed, but must be abolished. The Head of State of the German Democratic Republic had assured the visiting delegation that his country would continue to support the struggle for independence and the elimination of *apartheid* in southern Africa.

45. One of the central tasks facing the United Nations in combating racism was the further development of international legal instruments to eliminate that phenomenon and the enhancement of their effectiveness by urging all States to become parties to them. For its part, the German Democratic Republic had become a party to a number of international human rights instruments and had endeavoured to implement them at the national level. At its most recent session, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) had considered the seventh periodic report of the German Democratic Republic, which illustrated how socialism had led to the eradication of the socio-economic causes of racism — capitalist exploitation and imperialism — and how the social conditions now obtaining in the country precluded the very existence of racism or racial discrimination.

46. His delegation was concerned at the increasing evidence of racist ideas, movements and policies in certain parts of the capitalist world, and believed that the international community should focus greater attention on that problem. In that connection, he urged all States to become parties to existing instruments for the protection of human rights and the elimination of racism and to co-operate actively in their implementation. He also endorsed the recommendations made in connection with the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination contained in document E/1987/31.

47. Mr. ZVEZDIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that efforts to combat racism were an essential element in the creation of a new system of relations between peoples and States—a comprehensive system of international security. That system included the eradication of genocide, of *apartheid*, of the propagation of fascism and of all racial, national and religious exclusivity and discrimination. The Soviet Union was a party to many international human rights instruments, and was resolutely opposed to all racist policies and

practices and to doctrines based on discrimination, exclusivity or superiority.

48. The peoples of South Africa and Namibia had long been the victims of racist policies which differed little from the Nazi policies of the past. The Soviet Union and the overwhelming majority of States believed that all measures which fell short of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa served only to increase the suffering of the indigenous population, prolong the existence of the racist régime and encourage South Africa's acts of aggression against neighbouring African States. *Apartheid* could not be changed; it must be replaced by a society based on equality and democracy. The elimination of that inhuman system would improve the international climate and contribute to international peace and security.

49. The United Nations demanded an end to human rights violations in the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the sovereign rights of the Arab people in Palestine. That was the only way to guarantee the enjoyment of peace and human rights by the peoples of Israel and Palestine.

50. The increasing activities of racist organizations were a threat to peace, and the activities of the second half of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination should include measures to eliminate racial discrimination and to prohibit racist organizations and propaganda. At the end of the Second Decade, a world conference should be convened to assess the achievements of the Decade and to give new impetus to the efforts of the international community to eliminate State racism and all forms of racial discrimination.

51. Mr. YU Mengjia (China) said that the action taken thus far under the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination[1] would strengthen international co-operation and help to achieve the objectives of the Decade. The activities for the second half of the Decade proposed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights (E/1987/31, annex I), as well as those proposed by CERD and the Human Rights Committee, were feasible and should be implemented. In addition, the work of CERD should receive particular attention during the latter half of the Decade. At the recent meeting of States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, several positive suggestions had been made regarding the future work of the Committee, and it was to be hoped that the co-operation which had prevailed during that meeting would continue.

52. The primary objective of the Second Decade should be the termination of the barbarous and universally condemned system of *apartheid*. The situation in South Africa continued to deteriorate. Under the state of emergency imposed in June 1986, hundreds had been killed and thousands detained, and press restrictions had been introduced. Nevertheless opposition was growing, and the South African authorities would inevitably become increasingly isolated.

53. His Government had always supported the struggle for racial equality and was actively participating in various activities under the Second Decade. China maintained no links whatsoever with the South African authorities and had provided the South African people with material assistance. Those countries that had not imposed sanctions against South Africa should reconsider their position.

54. Mr. BARNETT (Jamaica) said that practices justifying unequal treatment of persons attacked the core of human dignity and violated the principles on which the Organization had been founded. United Nations vigilance had exposed racist atrocities and had led to efforts to eradicate the evil system of *apartheid*. Jamaica had unequivocally supported decisive action to that end, including comprehensive economic sanctions.

55. A number of activities, to be co-ordinated by the Council, had been provided for under the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.[1] His delegation particularly welcomed the suggestions offered in document E/1987/29. In addition, it would be helpful to consider an approach allowing for rigorous assessment of the situations in which racism continued. That would involve co-ordination between the Council and the various expert bodies, thus strengthening the Council's role in respect of activities under the Decade.

56. His Government would have welcomed further proposals from the Secretariat concerning operational activities for the period 1990-1993, in addition to those contained in annex I of document E/1987/31. In that connection, his delegation viewed the proliferation of expert meetings with caution. It would be preferable to channel resources into activities of the kind referred to in documents E/1987/31 and E/1987/66. Training and the dissemination of information should continue to receive attention.

57. Jamaica supported the co-ordinating activities reported by various specialized agencies, and recognized the role of the special representative of the Secretary-General and of non-governmental organizations.

58. Although responsibility for eradicating racism rested with States, much reliance could be placed on the expertise available at the United Nations. His delegation wished to see the strongest possible response from the Secretariat, notwithstanding fiscal limitations. Jamaica, for its part, would live up to its international human rights obligations.

59. Mr. VILLAGRA DELGADO (Observer for Argentina) said that it was paradoxical that, in the final years of the twentieth century, when major advances had been achieved in other areas, it had not proved possible to eliminate racism and racial discrimination once and for all. *Apartheid,* the most serious instance of racism, was a continuing source of tension in southern Africa. The system did not admit of reform, but had to be completely eliminated. In view of the lack of success of appeals by the international community for an end to *apartheid,* the time had come for sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations in an effort to avert the impending confrontation between the minority and majority populations of South Africa.

60. There were other, more subtle forms of racism, such as the discriminatory treatment meted out to migrant workers. The Second Decade could constitute an effective instrument for the elimination of all forms of racism.

61. In that connection, education, particularly for the young, was of critical importance. The media should also contribute to the attainment of the objectives of the Second Decade. Further, it would be useful to receive

updated information from the appropriate United Nations organs on progress made in implementing the objectives, together with suggestions as to how to promote further progress.

62. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[3] was central to international activities to combat racism. The current financial difficulties being experienced by CERD were cause for grave concern. Everything possible should be done to ensure the continuation of the Committee's work.

63. Mr. LOPEZ (Philippines) said that discrimination based on race had no place in the society of man. It was therefore right for the United Nations to give the highest priority to the elimination of racism. The attainment of the objectives of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination[1] deserved full support.

64. The efforts made by some non-governmental organizations to combat racism were heartening. The cooperation of other non-governmental organizations particularly in the field of education and information, should be sought in an effort to cleanse the minds of men, especially young people, of any illusion of superiority based on race or other characteristics.

65. His delegation welcomed the reports of UNESCO (E/1987/29, paras. 35-49; E/1987/29/Add.1, paras. 48-64) and ICAO (E/1987/29, paras. 50-53) on activities under the Decade, and hoped that other specialized agencies would continue to include such activities in their programmes of work.

66. Within the Organization itself, it would be helpful if the bodies concerned with the implementation of the various human rights instruments reported to the Council on progress made in meeting the objectives of the Decade. Accordingly, his delegation endorsed the recommendations contained in paragraph 11 of document E/1987/29.

67. The success of the Second Decade would depend largely on universal implementation of United Nations human rights instruments. It was thus important for all Member States to become States parties to those instruments. With the end of the dictatorial régime in the Philippines, his Government had recently become party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.[5]

68. His delegation noted the proposed activities for the period 1990-1993 outlined by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights (E/1987/31, annex I) and looked forward to the Secretary-General's report thereon. The impact of the financial crisis on activities for the Decade gave cause for concern.

69. No victory over racism and racial discrimination could be claimed so long as *apartheid* existed in South Africa. Yet no improvement was apparent in that hapless land. The international community must summon up its resolve and ensure a bright future for the people of South Africa.

70. Mr. LINDGREN (Brazil) said that the current "whites-only" election in South Africa was a mockery of democratic institutions and a new display of contempt for the international community. It was very fitting that so much attention was given under the Second Decade to the abolition of *apartheid.*

71. His delegation agreed with most of the suggestions for the plan of activities for the period 1990-1993, especially those put forward by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights (E/1987/31, annex I). Brazil supported initiatives in the field of education in particular, so as to ensure that future generations did not suffer from the absurd prejudice of racism, and welcomed the proposals concerning the role of the mass media. His delegation supported the proposal made by the representative of Australia (6th meeting, para. 11) for a study of the impact of the media black-out imposed by the South African authorities. The special meeting of States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, to be convened during the period 1990-1993, should assess experience gained in implementation of the Convention, rather than discuss additional protocols thereto. The recent meeting of States parties had been fruitful because of its clearly-defined scope. The decisions adopted would eke out the resources of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and would rationalize reporting obligations under the Convention.[3] Moreover, several countries in arrears had agreed to pay contributions within the proposed time-limit. Brazil had recently paid its assessment for 1987.

72. The results of the activities carried out under the two Decades had been minimal; racism, either overt or disguised, still persisted in every corner of the globe. Yet, after centuries in which discriminatory practices had been considered legal and normal in every society, it was heartening to realize that in the twentieth century the concept of race had been obliterated by advances in knowledge. Although the results of United Nations initiatives were still small, they were not irrelevant. The message conveyed in United Nations resolutions might seem rhetorical, but it bore fruit both in national legislation and in the minds of those who imposed or suffered from the evils of racism.

73. No doubt the United Nations seemed impotent before the arrogance of Pretoria. Yet those who struggled to abolish *apartheid* must know that the great majority of the international community shared their conviction that victory was certain.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

8th meeting

Thursday, 7 May 1987, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. Eugeniusz NOWORYTA (Poland)

E/1987/SR.8

AGENDA ITEMS 2, 5 AND 6

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*) (E/1987/29 and Add.1 and 2, E/1987/31 and Add.1, E/1987/66)

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (*continued*)

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (*continued*) (E/1987/59, E/1987/L.15, E/1987/L.19)

1. Mr. KAZEMBE (Observer for Zambia) said that most States Members of the United Nations agreed that action was necessary to combat racism and, in particular, *apartheid*. Education, legislation and international co-operation offered the best means of achieving racial harmony.

2. His delegation was concerned about the lack of resources available to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which would make it impossible to hold a training course for legislative draftsmen in 1987. The amount needed to fund the course was insignificant in comparison with the cost of racial prejudice.

3. For Zambia, the elimination of racism was a priority. Peace was not possible so long as racism existed. South Africa offered an example of the dangers of racial intolerance. Unfortunately, *apartheid* was still supported by some countries. While they profess their abhorrence of *apartheid,* some members of the Security Council obstructed the imposition of sanctions, confirming the *apartheid* régime in the knowledge that it would be protected from effective measures against it.

4. The systematic attacks conducted by South Africa against neighbouring States, including Zambia, demonstrated that the régime was tottering. The peaceful dismantling of *apartheid* could only be achieved by the authors of the system and their supporters.

5. The proposed plan of activities for the period 1990-1993 (see E/1987/31 and Add.1) of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination offered a sound basis for progress. Emphasis should be placed on countering racism and assisting its victims. With regard to *apartheid,* information on the state of emergency should be more widely disseminated.

6. Mr. LY (Senegal) said that with the introduction of the state of emergency the minority South African régime had reinforced the system of repression of the black majority, in continued defiance of the international community, the United Nations and the Security Council. However, public awareness was increasing and might be mobilized to end the régime's use of arbitrary arrest, murder and censorship. The situation was becoming increasingly tense and threatened international peace and security.

7. Mandatory comprehensive sanctions were needed to establish the pre-conditions for negotiation between the Pretoria régime and the liberation movements, namely, the freeing of Mandela, the lifting of the state of emergency, the abrogation of legislation suppressing anti-*apartheid* groupings and the rescission of racist legislation. Recent events, however, revealed no change on the part of the upholders of *apartheid*. Accordingly, the international community must take more effective action, including providing support to freedom fighters and front-line States so as to secure the dismantling of *apartheid*. Senegal, despite its limited means, had decided to contribute to the various programmes on behalf of the South African and Namibian peoples.

8. Any attempt to formulate a plan of activities for the second half of the Second Decade should be preceded by an assessment of progress made, an essential element of which was the evaluation of the success of the first Decade. In particular, there was a need for more detailed study of the effects of discrimination on minority children and the children of migrant workers. The study on the role of private groups in combating racism demonstrated the importance of non-governmental organizations and other groups in mobilizing public opinion. His delegation also looked forward to the issuance of model laws on which Governments could base training courses and national legislation. Effective co-ordination of the various activities being undertaken within the United Nations system to combat racism was essential.

9. The activities suggested under the Programme of Action for the Second Decade should emphasize proposals intended to eliminate *apartheid* and achieve independence for Namibia. In that connection, his delegation supported the publication of a list of individuals and organizations presumed to have responsibility for the system of *apartheid*. Senegal welcomed the programmes on training and the role of the media, and wished to draw attention to the precarious status of migrant workers, on whose behalf appropriate international norms should be formulated. His delegation also welcomed the proposals relating to recourse procedures for victims of racial discrimination.

10. Individuals, non-governmental organizations and specialized agencies, in addition to Governments, should be involved in the Programme of Action. The degree of funding available for the Programme gave cause for concern.

11. It was important for all States to ratify the international instruments proscribing racial discrimination. In particular, it was to be hoped that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination would receive appropriate support.

12. His delegation welcomed the interest displayed by various subsidiary organs and specialized agencies in the Programme of Action (see E/1987/29 and Add.1 and

2). Debate within those bodies would assist the Secretariat in finalizing the plan of activities, which could be adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-second session.

13. Mrs. AL-TURAIHI (Iraq) said that her Government had actively participated in all international conferences on racial discrimination and had ratified the relevant international instruments. Iraq firmly condemned racism, which was illegal under its Constitution. Her Government maintained no relations whatsoever with South Africa.

14. Although the second half of the Second Decade was at hand, the international community had yet to fulfil its commitment to end racial discrimination. The racist régime of South Africa continued to act with impunity, as evidenced by the state of emergency, the occupation of Namibia, attacks on neighbouring countries and press restrictions. A lack of political will on the part of certain States had so far made it impossible to impose sanctions against South Africa under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

15. Zionism, too, was a form of racism, and the Zionist régime was just as brutal as that in South Africa. The international community must assist the Palestinian people, the innocent victim of repression.

16. The measures proposed in annex I of document E/1987/31 omitted the Iraqi proposal for an end to all co-operation with South Africa, although the report prepared by Mr. Ahmed Khalifa, Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, offered a basis for action to that end. More emphasis must be placed on ending the odious *apartheid* régime. When formulating activities for the second half of the Second Decade, it would be helpful to have an assessment of progress made to date in combating racial discrimination and of the obstacles that remained. The co-operation of the specialized agencies, in particular ILO and UNESCO, would be valuable in conducting further campaigns intended, for example, to make use of the media to disseminate information. Meetings of experts and of non-governmental organizations were also valuable tools—efforts should be made to increase the contribution made by non-governmental organizations. Finally, her delegation hoped that the financial crisis would not impede the pursuit of activities intended to eliminate *apartheid*.

17. Mrs. MUKHERJEE (India) said that her country's unswerving commitment to combating racism and racial discrimination had constituted an intrinsic element in its struggle for national independence. It was in that spirit that India had acceded to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*[10] and actively participated in the elaboration of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.[3]

18. The financial difficulties of the United Nations had placed obstacles in the path of implementation of the programmes relating to the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

19. She was therefore pleased to announce on behalf of her Government a contribution of $10,000 to the Trust Fund established under the Decade.

20. The evils of racism and racial discrimination continued unabated in South Africa. Comprehensive mandatory sanctions were the only peaceful way to compel the South African régime to dismantle *apartheid*: the alternative was too ghastly to contemplate. As Indira Gandhi had said, "History cannot be denied, nor will the inexorable march of the future be halted. *Apartheid* cannot survive."

21. Her delegation supported the points made by the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in his report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1987/8/Rev.1) on the adverse consequences for enjoyment of human rights of assistance to South Africa and was particularly interested in the implementation of part A, on *apartheid*, and parts B and C on education and the mass media, of the approved Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.[1] Her Government realized the value of preventive action to combat prejudices, and had made a concerted effort to shape the right mental attitudes through education.

22. Her delegation appealed to all States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racism and Racial Discrimination to fulfil their obligations under the Convention in order that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination might continue its valuable work. She also noted with concern the problem of overdue reports, common to all international human rights instruments, and said that India had been regularly submitting the reports under the various human rights instruments to which it was a party.

23. India was honoured to chair the Africa Fund set up in September 1986. It had contributed $40 million to the Fund and was pleased to note the positive approach of several other countries towards the Fund's efforts.

24. Miss DANIELSEN (Norway), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, expressed their support for the broad perspective that formed the basis for the Secretariat's efforts to implement the Programme of Action for the Second Decade. In fighting racism and racial discrimination, which were to some degree and in one form or another still present in every country in the world, it was important fully to comprehend the great variety of manifestations of racism and racial discrimination and the complexity of the driving forces behind them. The Nordic countries agreed that *apartheid* should be the priority in the Programme of Action, and had noted with grave concern the further deterioration in the situation in South Africa, which at the same time maintained its aggressive policy of destabilization in the region.

25. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Nordic countries had agreed at their recent meeting that pressure on the South African Government must be stepped up. The international community must intensify its efforts to accelerate the elimination of *apartheid* through mandatory sanctions. Pending adoption by the Security Council of effective measures, the Nordic countries had implemented or were about to implement measures to impose a trade boycott, in the hope that other countries would follow suit and thus help bring about a Security Council resolution imposing effective sanctions against South Africa. The Nordic countries would intensify their efforts, both inside and outside the United Nations, to speed up the abolition of *apartheid*. They had already increased their assistance to the front-line States and to the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference, and were also major contribu-

tors of humanitarian assistance to liberation movements, refugees and other victims of *apartheid*.

26. The importance of education and training in the fight against racism was duly reflected in the Programme of Action. While UNESCO had a special responsibility in the educational field, other organs of the United Nations system should consider how they could contribute towards the educational element in the Programme. She reiterated the Nordic delegations' support for exploring the idea of organizing a round table of experts to consider questions related to the preparation of teaching materials to combat racism and racial discrimination.

27. The media also had an important part to play in the fight against racial discrimination, as had been shown by the Round Table on International Legal Issues relating to *Apartheid*, Racism and Racial Discrimination, held at The Hague in September 1985 with the financial support of the Nordic countries. The formula of bringing together experts and media people had proved highly successful.

28. The substantial progress made in establishing more precise norms for the protection of minority groups, indigenous people and migrant workers against racial discrimination was commendable. The working group of the Commission on Human Rights had recently entered a more dynamic stage in its proceedings on the elaboration of a draft declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and the Nordic countries therefore supported the request for slightly extended meeting time for that working group.

29. Adoption of an international convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and their families could also make a significant contribution to the Second Decade. The Working Group on the draft convention, the meetings of which had unfortunately had to be cancelled because of budgetary constraints, should be given adequate resources in future, so that its work could be completed as soon as possible.

30. Similarly, it was most regrettable that the Working Group on Indigenous Populations had had its session cancelled in 1985 for financial reasons. The Nordic countries actively supported the Working Group as observers, and considered that it should now, while continuing to review the situation of indigenous populations, concentrate on the part of its mandate related to standard-setting, with a view to making further progress on the drafting of principles. She urged member States to contribute to the Voluntary Fund to facilitate the participation of representatives of indigenous communities and organizations.

31. Many non-governmental organizations were performing valuable work in the fight against racism and racial discrimination, and she supported the proposal to convene consultative meetings of non-governmental organizations at the various United Nations agencies to explore ways in which those organizations could contribute even more to the implementation of the Programme of Action.

32. The Nordic countries were concerned at the problem of non-payment of contributions under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[3] and reiterated their strong appeal to the States parties to the Convention to honour their obligations, so that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination would not be obliged to cancel any further meetings. The paltry sums involved and the wide support enjoyed by the Convention, to which 124 States had acceded, meant that there was no good reason to jeopardize the work of the Committee to such an extent.

33. Every effort should be made to maintain the consensus on the Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which enjoyed wide support. The goal should now be to decide on further action to be taken.

34. Mr. OUDOVENKO (Observer for the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that, despite the existence of internationally binding instruments on the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, the evil of racism had not been abolished. The explosive situation in southern Africa was particularly distressing. In an attempt to prolong its rule, the *apartheid* régime was taking harsh measures to repress the indigenous populations of South Africa and occupied Namibia. It was high time for the international community to make a concerted effort to eradicate *apartheid*, in particular through the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against South Africa. Unfortunately, the Security Council had not been able to adopt a resolution on the imposition of those sanctions because two States had exercised their right of veto. The Economic and Social Council at its current session should therefore call upon all Governments, in particular those of the States which were permanent members of the Security Council, to demonstrate their political will and far-sightedness by agreeing to impose sanctions against the *apartheid* régime.

35. The South African régime was not the only example of racism and racial discrimination in the world. Israeli expansionism had deprived the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights. Neo-colonialism, which was also based on racism, continued to plunder the resources of the developing countries. The economic crisis in the West had had a negative effect on the situation of racial and ethnic minorities, which faced discriminatory hiring and wage practices. Migrant workers were particularly vulnerable, since they had the least opportunity to defend their rights. Seeking to relieve social tensions, reactionary circles in certain countries blamed migrant workers for economic difficulties and the deterioration in the living standards of the working people. Such ideas were often espoused by right-wing extremist organizations which propagated racial and ethnic hatred and committed terrorist acts. In that regard, the struggle against nazism, neo-colonialism and fascism was an inalienable part of the general struggle to combat racism and racial discrimination.

36. The plan of activities proposed by the Secretary-General for 1990-1993 (see E/1987/31 and Add.1) would contribute to the eradication of racism and all forms of racial discrimination and to the achievement of the goals of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. However, that would not replace the Programme of Action for the Second Decade,[1] which remained the principal document of the Decade. The updated report by Mr. Khalifa on the adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to the racist and colonialist régime of South Africa (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1987/8/Rev.1) was an

indispensable element of the plan of activities for 1990-1993 under part A of the Programme of Action, and the Secretariat should facilitate the dissemination of that important report.

37. The holding of regional seminars to discuss experience in the adoption of legislation against racism and racial discrimination, as well as the work of national institutions in that area, could improve national efforts to eradicate racism. The reports of the Secretary-General were instrumental in providing information about national experience in the elimination of racial discrimination. In that connection, his delegation was pleased that attention had been given to the implementation by the socialist countries of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade.

38. Miss EMARA (Egypt) said that, despite the confidence felt at the time of the inauguration of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination that the necessary components for the success of implementation of the Programme of Action were available, the progress made during the first half of the Decade had not matched that achieved during the first Decade.

39. Attainment of the objectives of the Second Decade had been hampered by the financial crisis of the United Nations, and her delegation endorsed the repeated appeals to Member States by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly to contribute to the Trust Fund for the Decade in order to ensure implementation of the Programme of Action for the Decade.

40. With reference to document E/1987/31, her delegation wondered why the Secretariat had submitted its proposals regarding activities for the period 1990-1993 in the form of a statement by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, rather than in the report called for in paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 41/94. The Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination[1] accorded priority to the fight against *apartheid*. In that connection, the updated report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1987/8/Rev.1) and related lists prepared by the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on the adverse consequences for enjoyment of human rights of assistance to South Africa were commendable and her delegation hoped that at the forty-second session of the General Assembly a more complete version would be made available, taking into account the views expressed by members of the Council.

41. She urged States Members of the United Nations to redouble their efforts to eliminate racism and racial discrimination, which were still rampant in the Second Decade, and particularly to eliminate *apartheid* once and for all. South Africa continued to flout all resolutions of the United Nations, and it was time for words to be replaced by action and for States to demonstrate their political will by imposing mandatory sanctions against the régime. Egypt would work tirelessly to that end.

Mr. Barnett (Jamaica), Vice-President, took the Chair.

42. Mr. MIKULKA (Observer for Czechoslovakia) stressed that equality, regardless of race or ethnic origin, was proclaimed in the Czechoslovak Constitution and was backed by a number of effective guarantees. Spreading the idea of racial and national equality was one of the constant tasks of the entire educational and cultural system of Czechoslovakia, and the eradication of racism, racial discrimination and segregation, wherever they occurred in the world, was one of the priority tasks of Czechoslovak foreign policy. Czechoslovakia was a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[3] and to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*,[10] and would shortly be ratifying the International Convention against *Apartheid* in Sports.[11] Wider participation in those Conventions would be a practical contribution to implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination,[1] and efforts should therefore be redoubled to increase the number of States parties.

43. The persistence of racial discrimination in many parts of the world and in South Africa in particular posed the question of how best to implement the various recommendations, appeals and decisions of the United Nations directed at the eradication of racism and *apartheid*. The deepening political, social and moral crisis in South Africa was demonstrated not only by the deteriorating living conditions of the black population and the upsurge in violence, but in the "new methods" of the régime, which deliberately provoked tribal disputes in order to conceal the true racial and social problems. Moral condemnation of *apartheid* was not enough; the only way to help the oppressed people of South Africa was to interrupt co-operation with the régime and thus isolate it totally. The unwillingness of certain States to adopt effective sanctions against South Africa had been demonstrated during the February and April sessions of the Security Council on the questions of South Africa and Namibia, at which they had prevented the adoption of resolutions on mandatory and comprehensive sanctions. The struggle against *apartheid* continued to be one of the principal tasks of the United Nations.

44. His delegation also resolutely condemned the policy of zionism as a form of racism practised by Israel in the occupied Arab territories and against the Arab people of Palestine. The mass violation of human rights which was being witnessed in the occupied Arab territories constituted a serious threat to international peace and security.

45. Racism survived in other parts of the world as well, finding expression in the activities of a whole series of militant organizations with neo-Fascist tendencies that were based on the ideology of racial hatred and terror. Immigrant workers in some Western European countries suffered not only from economic exploitation, but from racial oppression in its most naked form.

46. Czechoslovakia actively fulfilled its obligations under the International Covenants on Human Rights[12] and was systematically promoting the broadest possible enjoyment by its people of political, economic, social and cultural rights. It regularly submitted reports on the implementation of the provisions of both Covenants, and saw the monitoring mechanism as an important way of developing constructive international co-operation in the observance of fundamental human rights and freedoms.

47. Mr. BIFFOT (Gabon) said that in 1977 President Bongo had called upon the international community to take decisive measures to eliminate *apartheid*. Ten years

later, the situation in South Africa and Namibia remained unchanged. A current excuse for maintaining *apartheid* was the concept of "linkage", which made the withdrawal of the South African occupation forces in Namibia contingent upon the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. That concept was part and parcel of the arsenal of "delaying tactics" which President Bongo had condemned in a speech delivered at the United Nations on 18 October 1985. The expansionist Pretoria régime was well aware that the departure of the 42,000 Cuban troops from Angola would make that country a prime target for South African aggression. The Pretoria régime was capable of occupying the entire country in a single night, and the international community could suddenly be confronted, as a *fait accompli,* with yet another massive violation of human rights. The Council should include the question of linkage in the list of its subjects of research on human rights.

48. Mr. LOULICHKI (Morocco) said that the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination[1] provided for a series of activities aimed at eliminating the various manifestations of racial discrimination. His delegation would have welcomed a comprehensive document evaluating the implementation of the Plan of Action and describing the activities planned for the second half of the Second Decade.

49. Despite numerous United Nations resolutions, the Pretoria régime had not abandoned its policy of oppression, imprisonment and persecution of South African patriots, and it continued to use Namibia as a base for launching acts of aggression against neighbouring States. The time had come to take decisive steps to force South Africa to abolish the anachronistic system of *apartheid*. Morocco was prepared to join any international effort to eradicate that scourge and to achieve the speedy independence of the Namibian people.

50. In the Palestinian and Arab occupied territories, Israel continued to violate the human rights of the indigenous populations and to deny the Palestinian people its inalienable right to self-determination. The international community must endeavour to eliminate such practices, which threatened international peace and security, and to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. In that regard, Morocco supported the efforts of the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, its sole legitimate representative. The holding of an international conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of all interested parties, including the PLO and the permanent members of the Security Council, was an appropriate way of seeking a global political settlement of the critical situation in the region.

51. The International Covenants on Human Rights[12] were the most important international legal instruments for promoting human rights at the international level. The effectiveness of the Covenants depended on the way in which States parties carried out their obligations and guaranteed the rights contained in the Covenants, to which Morocco had acceded in 1979. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights should conduct an in-depth analysis of the relations between the external factors which influenced development and the effective exercise of economic, social and cultural rights, in the light of the Declaration on the Right to Development[13] adopted on 4 December 1986.

52. Mr. ABOU HADID (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his country strongly rejected all forms of racial discrimination, which constituted an insult to mankind and a violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Syrian Arab Republic was committed to the implementation of the principles and aims of the Second Decade and called upon all freedom-loving peoples to unite to combat all manifestations of racism and racial discrimination. In its resolution 3379 (XXX), the General Assembly had stated that zionism was a form of racism; consequently, the international community must combat that phenomenon within the framework of the Second Decade. All Member States must make concerted efforts to eradicate *apartheid* and to translate their political will into concrete action by acceding to and implementing the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.[3]

53. In the past year, the situation in South Africa had worsened. A state of emergency had been in effect since June 1986, and thousands of workers and students had been detained. The Pretoria régime had introduced arbitrary legislation to censor the local and international press. Despite repeated appeals by many international organizations and conferences, Pretoria continued to commit acts of aggression against neighbouring States, most recently against Zambia. The international community should not be deluded by the *apartheid* régime's superficial reforms. The United Nations must exert political and economic pressure on South Africa in the form of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions. Of great concern was the continuing co-operation between South Africa and Israel in all areas, in particular in the field of nuclear weapons.

54. His delegation agreed with the general guidelines of the plan of activities proposed for the second half of the Second Decade (see E/1987/31 and Add.1). It welcomed the priority given to the struggle to end *apartheid* and racial discrimination and believed that the media could play an important role in achieving those goals. He also expressed approval of the special activities to improve the conditions of migrant workers and promote respect for their human rights. It was unfortunate that a document had not been issued on that subject.

55. The Syrian Arab Republic maintained no relations with the racist Pretoria régime. It had acceded to the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and participated in the work relating to its implementation. Syrian society was free of all forms of racial discrimination, which were crimes punishable under the country's penal code. The Syrian Arab Republic had always attempted to isolate racist régimes, both internationally and regionally, and rejected all forms of colonialism and neo-colonialism.

56. Mr. TSVETKOV (Bulgaria) said that, even though all States agreed that racial discrimination was a crime against the conscience and dignity of mankind and must be eliminated, some States still refused to become party to international instruments for the elimination of racism, or, having done so, failed to fulfil their obligations under them. It was time for all States to demonstrate by action, rather than words, that they were committed to the fight against racism.

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[13] General Assembly resolution 41/128, annex.

57. The radication of *apartheid*, the most horrible manifestation of racism to date, was a particularly urgent matter, since the Pretoria régime and its policies threatened international peace and security. South Africa's actions were aggravating the situation in the entire southern African region; South Africa itself was in a state of civil war. Pretoria was also engaging in State terrorism and genocide against the black population of Namibia, and had gone so far as to carry out subversive acts against other neighbouring States.

58. The abyss between South Africa's racist leaders and the black majority was widening, and even those who upheld the *apartheid* system were convinced that little hope was left. Lately, Pretoria's traditional defenders had begun to distance themselves from the most extreme acts of racism and to exert verbal pressure and impose token economic sanctions on the régime. In practice, however, military, economic and diplomatic assistance for the *apartheid* régime continued to flow unchecked, given the interests shared by Western transnational corporations and the racists. Hypocritical pretexts for collaboration continued to be cited, most recently during the meetings of the Security Council in February and April 1987, to prevent the United Nations from putting an end to *apartheid* in South Africa. His delegation nevertheless favoured such action by the United Nations, including the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions in accordance with Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. Bulgaria also supported immediate independence for Namibia, in accordance with Security Council resolution 435 (1978).

59. The fate of the population in the occupied Arab territories in the Middle East, and of the Palestinian people in particular, was a source of legitimate concern. The policies and practices of Israel concerning that population were to be condemned. The problems of the Middle East required a comprehensive solution, which was why his delegation supported the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East involving all the parties concerned, including the PLO.

60. United Nations efforts to eliminate racism should also be directed towards proscribing the activities of neo-Fascist, neo-Nazi and other racist organizations and defending the rights of migrant workers and their families. The enjoyment of any human rights on the basis of race still was a problem that required much effort in all countries, including the industrialized countries. For its part, Bulgaria had ratified all international instruments on the elimination of racism and racial discrimination and respected them scrupulously, in both its domestic and its foreign policies.

61. Mrs. NIKOLIĆ (Observer for Yugoslavia) said that the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination[1] constituted a valid and relevant framework for activities to be carried out during the remainder of the Decade. United Nations efforts must be intensified during the second half of the Decade, and in that connection she commended the activities described in document E/1987/31. Unfortunately, the current financial situation of the United Nations might influence their implementation; a spirit of realism was called for in the identification of project objectives, and available resources must be used as effectively as possible.

62. To date, the Trust Fund for the Decade had not received sufficient contributions, so that the proposed training course for legislative draftsmen was likely to be cancelled. She therefore urged States and organizations to respond generously to the appeal contained in paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 41/94.

63. Because racism and racial discrimination persisted in many parts of the world, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[3] and the Committee set up to monitor its implementation were of great importance. Her delegation consequently supported the decision taken at the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention to alleviate the current financial problems facing the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

64. Yugoslavia continued to favour a peaceful solution to the Namibian question on the basis of the United Nations plan for Namibia, and believed that the United Nations should take resolute action to intensify the struggle against *apartheid*. Furthermore, an international peace conference on the Middle East should be convened as soon as possible, with all the parties concerned—including the PLO—participating.

65. The situation of migrant workers and their families had become more difficult as a result of the deteriorating world economic situation. The situation of national and ethnic minorities in many countries was likewise cause for concern. International instruments to protect the rights of those groups should be finalized and further steps taken to improve their situation. In that regard, the study on the effects of racial discrimination in the fields of education, training and employment on children of minorities, and particularly those of migrant workers, which was to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-second session, was of particular importance.

Mr. Noworyta (Poland) resumed the Chair.

66. Mr. KABANDA (Rwanda) said that, through the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations had largely achieved the objectives set out in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations. Many international legal instruments had been developed to protect human rights, one of the most important of which was the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.[3] In that connection, he called upon all States parties to the Convention to honour their financial commitments to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination so that that body could continue to carry out its mandate.

67. He paid a tribute to the work done by non-governmental organizations in opposing racism and racial discrimination, particularly those operating in South Africa. He also commended the efforts of regional groups and particularly of the Nordic countries, which stood in the vanguard of the fight against discrimination on account of their willingness to match their words with action, unlike many other countries which said one thing but did another.

68. All human beings enjoyed common attributes of equality and freedom which must be defended. Individuals and Governments that questioned that equality must be shown the error of their ways, South Africa being a case in point. It was ironic that *apartheid* had been institutionalized in South Africa in 1948, the same year in which the Universal Declaration of Human

Rights[8] had been adopted. Today, South Africa was the only country to believe that all human beings were not equal and therefore not entitled to enjoy the same human rights and fundamental freedoms. In fact, there was little to differentiate *apartheid* from the form of racism that had been at the origin of the Second World War.

69. *Apartheid* could be analysed from the point of view of its effects on the internal situation in South Africa, its effects on Namibia, its implications for neighbouring countries and the many forms of complicity between the system and the foreign Powers which gave it moral and political support. In elections held only the day before, the Pretoria régime had voted against any attempt at reconciliation between blacks and whites in South Africa. Yet it was possible that the régime's end was at hand, since divisions were beginning to appear even among the régime's supporters. The Economic and Social Council must not remain silent before the mockery of that election, but must unanimously condemn the evil of *apartheid* and extend a helping hand to all victims of racism and racial discrimination.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

9th meeting

Friday, 8 May 1987, at 10.35 a.m.

President: Mr. Eugeniusz NOWORYTA (Poland)

E/1987/SR.9

AGENDA ITEMS 2, 5 AND 6

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*) (E/1987/29 and Add.1 and 2, E/1987/31 and Add.1, E/1987/66)

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (*continued*)

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (*continued*) (E/1987/59, E/1987/L.15, E/1987/L.19)

1. Miss AIOUAZE (Observer for Algeria) said it was particularly appropriate that the Council should take stock of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination at its mid-point, as the problems of racism and racial discrimination were growing worse in certain parts of the world. While the plan of activities for the second half of the Decade should cover all the areas identified in the Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly,[1] emphasis should be placed on the eradication of *apartheid* and similar ideologies. Her delegation supported all activities designed to restore human dignity, wherever it had been assaulted by doctrines of racial superiority or xenophobic practices.

2. Drawing on experience gained during the first half of the Decade, the Council should formulate proposals focusing on international assistance to peoples and movements struggling against colonialism and racism, on measures to prevent assistance to racist régimes, and on the human rights of migrant workers and their families. With regard to specific activities, her delegation supported the wide dissemination of the annual reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the adverse consequences for human rights of assistance to South Africa. In that connection, it also supported the convening of a workshop of experts for the purpose suggested by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights in the annex to document E/1987/31.

3. Mr. GUTIÉRREZ (Observer for Costa Rica) said that the work done by the United Nations in the field of human rights formed the basis of the Organization's prestige. He welcomed the increase in the number of States parties to the various human rights instruments adopted by the United Nations and stressed the importance of the commitment of individual Governments to fulfil their obligations under those instruments.

4. While the International Covenants on Human Rights[12] classified all human rights into two categories (civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights), it was impossible to promote one category without respecting the other as well. Every society must struggle to achieve freedom for all its members and at the same time establish institutions for the general welfare. The right to life must be seen as the right to life in freedom and dignity.

5. In recent years, the most important achievements in the area of human rights had resulted from the democratization process in Latin America. For a long time, United Nations human rights bodies had focused particular attention on the countries of that region: no other region had been the subject of so many investigations, reports and resolutions. Regardless of how appropriate such selectivity might have been, it could now be said that such scrutiny had heightened the Latin American countries' awareness of human rights and had led them to denounce and correct violations. While a few unfortunate exceptions remained, no region of the world was demonstrating its commitment to the fulfilment of its international human rights obligations more than Latin America.

6. In South Africa, it was shocking to see a State which had helped found the United Nations refuse to abide by the principles of the Organization, violating not only the rights relating to quality of life, but the right to life in freedom and dignity. While the severe criticism of South Africa by the entire international community had had some effect, much remained to be done before *apartheid* would be eliminated. Only then would human rights be fully enjoyed throughout the world. In the mean time, that struggle must be continued in the knowledge that justice would ultimately triumph.

7. Mr. MAHONEY (Observer for the Gambia) said that the success of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination would not be judged on the merits of specific activities, but on the extent to which its goals were achieved. Thus far, scant attention had been paid to the Council's mandate to evaluate the activities undertaken during the Decade, as set out in paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 38/14. The current situation in South Africa, in particular, demonstrated that the Decade's objectives were far from being achieved. If a cataclysm was to be averted in that country, the international community must act decisively, and soon. South Africa's principal trading partners must recognize that the dictates of self-interest and international responsibility had converged; his delegation therefore welcomed the remarks by the representative of Japan (6th meeting) regarding the need to take action to eradicate *apartheid*.

8. While the Decade had begun at a time of financial crisis in the United Nations, the existence of severe resource constraints should not prevent a thorough review of completed or current activities. It was fair to say that the results of those activities had been mixed. At its forty-first session, the General Assembly, mindful of the hesitant start of the Programme of Action for the Decade, had called for the submission to the Council, at its first regular session of 1987, of a report outlining a proposed plan of activities for the second half of the Decade, a plan which was conspicuously absent from the documents before the Council. The closest approximation to such a document was the text of the statement made before the Commission on Human Rights by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights (E/1987/31, annex I). That statement had been delivered well after the Commission had concluded the debate on the Decade. At that time, only one delegation had addressed the Assistant Secretary-General's suggestions, expressing regret that they had not been submitted to the Commission in a formal document. The Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1987/12, had then encouraged the Secretary-General to make every effort to submit to the Economic and Social Council, at its first regular session of 1987, an appropriate draft plan of activities for the period 1990-1993. His delegation was therefore surprised at the absence of such a plan. It was conceivable that the Secretariat, having been criticized in the past, was hesitant to put forward its own proposals, preferring instead to forward suggestions obtained from other quarters to the competent intergovernmental bodies. That approach was neither practical nor desirable; moreover, the staff of the Centre for Human Rights was fully competent to prepare the requested material.

9. The proposals which appeared in annex I of document E/1987/31 did correspond to the priorities identified in the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination,[1] and his delegation welcomed the initiatives discussed in the context of parts B and H of the Programme of Action. However, he expressed misgivings with regard to the "review and appraisal" orientation of a number of the proposed meetings of experts: it was inappropriate to devote so much time during the second half of the Decade to evaluating activities undertaken during the first half.

10. All activities for the second half of the Decade must have unanimous support and the lowest possible cost-benefit ratio. In that connection, he endorsed the views expressed by the representative of Australia (6th meeting) regarding possible ways of giving new impetus to Decade activities, which, as the representative of Belgium had said in her statement at the 5th meeting, were at a standstill. Statements by other speakers indicated that a consensus was emerging in support of activities relating to education and training and the dissemination of public information. However, such activities called for a creative approach. In that area of education, for example, training opportunities might be provided for South African and Namibian victims of *apartheid*, as had been done in his country since 1977. The dissemination of public information to offset the effects of the current news black-out in South Africa should also be explored, drawing on the considerable logistical resources of the Department of Public Information and the expertise available in such United Nations organizations as UNICEF and WHO. The situation of migrant workers might also benefit from public information activities. It was to be hoped that other delegations would make concrete proposals for action so that the Council might develop precise guidelines for the elaboration of a real plan of activities that could be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-second session.

11. Mr. LUPINACCI (Uruguay) endorsed document E/1987/29. He regretted the fact that the internationalization of the protection of human rights and of the fight against racism and racial discrimination had not stopped violation of those rights, which, with *apartheid* as the supreme example, was an affront to the conscience of mankind. The criminal Pretoria régime constituted a threat to peace and security in the region, and effective and mandatory sanctions should be imposed against it under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. The Security Council could not ignore its responsibility in that respect.

12. Concerted international action was also required to educate the younger generation, with emphasis on the social and legal background to racism and racial discrimination, to enlighten and inform public opinion, and to establish recourse mechanisms for victims of such discrimination. Within the United Nations system, there must be effective co-ordination of activities under the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.[1] His delegation therefore welcomed the proposals contained in document E/CN.4/1987/50 of the Commission on Human Rights and in annex I to document E/1987/31. His delegation attached particular importance to part B of the Programme of Action, relating to education, as well as to parts E and G, which related to effective judicial guarantees for victims of racial discrimination. International co-operation could be particularly valuable in the latter field.

13. Uruguay had been a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[3] since 1968, and hoped that more States would ratify or accede to it. Uruguay urged other States parties to pay their dues under the Convention immediately so that no more meetings of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had to be

cancelled. He also urged them to contribute to the Trust Fund.

14. Few international issues gave rise to such a convergence of views as the elimination of racism. A similar convergence of action would have had far-reaching results, even including the eradication of *apartheid*. His delegation hoped that through a strict implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade and through an increasingly committed attitude on the part of Governments, those aims would be translated into reality.

15. Mr. ORTIZ (Bolivia) reaffirmed his country's traditional policy of active opposition to racism and racial discrimination. He vehemently condemned the policies and practices of the Pretoria régime, which was continuing to trample under foot the most fundamental human rights of the peoples of southern Africa. His delegation expressed its steadfast support for the oppressed and persecuted peoples of the region in their battle for freedom and the recognition of their inalienable rights.

16. The condemnation by the Economic and Social Council of the abuses taking place and its message of support and hope to all peoples and movements fighting against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* should not remain within the Council chamber, but should travel to the region in question. His delegation therefore endorsed the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination,[1] particularly those parts of it relating to the dissemination of information, the role of the media, and education and training. His delegation also attached importance to evaluation of the activities undertaken and agreed with other delegations that the States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[3] should evaluate the implementation of the Convention and other international human rights instruments.

17. Mr. DIRAR (Sudan) said it was regrettable that despite the efforts of the United Nations and the commitment of the international community to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade,[1] racism and racial discrimination were still rampant. The worst excesses of racism, such as *apartheid,* constituted a challenge not only to Africa but to the rest of the world and to the values of civilization.

18. By denying blacks the vote, the current elections in South Africa denied them their human rights and indeed recognition as human beings. The state of emergency, the rising number of arrests, the detention of children and young people and the muzzling of the press all showed the tensions existing in the racist régime. The so-called reforms were only delaying tactics designed to perpetuate the *apartheid* system. *Apartheid* could not be changed, but must be eradicated in order to establish a just régime that protected human rights and fundamental freedoms. The violence inherent in the *apartheid* system had prompted the racist régime to continue its aggression against the front-line States, thus threatening the whole African continent and world peace and security. That was shown by South Africa's efforts in the nuclear field as well as by its co-operation with the Zionist régime.

19. His delegation called for a total trade embargo and for mandatory sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter. *Apartheid* was an economic as well as a social system, and should accordingly be fought on both fronts.

20. Given the volume of the Programme of Action and the gravity of the situation, the activities outlined in the documentation before the Council appeared relatively modest.

21. Despite the financial situation, the Programme must continue to reflect the commitment of the international community, and the proposals made in document E/1987/31 provided an excellent basis for working out a plan of activities for the rest of the Decade.

22. Mr. BANGO BANGO nyi MBEKWEEMBI wa GBAU (Zaire) said that the United Nations had been examining ways and means to combat racism and racial discrimination for nearly 15 years. However, despite the important International Covenants on Human Rights[12] and various programmes of action, the practical results were disappointing. The *apartheid* régime was more arrogant than ever, and racism and racial discrimination had assumed increasingly sophisticated and insidious forms. *Apartheid,* which went against not only the Charter but many constitutions all over the world and had been condemned by the United Nations as a crime against mankind, could not be reformed and had to be eliminated.

23. His delegation therefore supported the Programme of Action for the Second Decade,[1] and considered that its components relating to education, information and the role of the media should be given greater emphasis, so that peoples could be brought to understand as quickly as possible the dangers of failing to eliminate racism, *apartheid* and racial discrimination. The Pretoria régime was at bay, and the consequences of that situation were unpredictable. Accordingly, Zaire had deplored the attitude of the countries which had opposed the adoption of a resolution demanding the implementation of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions to eliminate *apartheid*. Africa was the only continent that had suffered from the slave trade, and was unique in still experiencing racial segregation. The adoption of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa would have put an end to *apartheid* and humanized race relations in southern Africa, obviating the need for the liberation movements to use force.

24. His delegation regretted that the training course for legislative draftsmen, scheduled under the Programme of Action, was intended for English speakers only in order to avoid interpretation and translation costs. The precedent was unfortunate. He trusted that adequate funding would be forthcoming so as to preserve the linguistic balance between the two main working languages of the United Nations.

25. Zaire appealed to the supporters of the South African régime to use their influence to eliminate *apartheid*. It was to be hoped that the current session of the Council would advance the struggle against racism.

26. Mr. MOHAMED (Somalia) said that those Western States that maintained special relationships with Pretoria should translate their words into action and impose sanctions. South Africa must be isolated politically, economically, socially and militarily.

27. The imposition of the state of emergency had made it more difficult to monitor human rights violations perpetrated by the régime, which also flagrantly

violated the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the front-line States. His delegation supported the activities proposed in annex I of document E/1987/31 relating to education. The role of the media in disseminating information was also important. Finally, his delegation trusted that adequate funding would be found for the training course for legislative draftsmen. The Secretariat might co-operate with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in preparing the course.

28. Miss ABBAS (Pakistan) said that it had not yet proved possible to eliminate racism. In South Africa, the racist régime had declared a state of emergency, imposed a news black-out and held elections that could only be described as a farce. Those policies threatened international peace and security, and it was imperative for mandatory sanctions to be imposed against South Africa and for the arms embargo to be strictly enforced. Nothing short of the total isolation of South Africa would bring about an end to the brutal system of *apartheid,* the fall of which would also result in independence for Namibia. An intensification of the struggle against racism was necessary; the credibility of the United Nations had been seriously eroded by Pretoria's continued defiance.

29. With respect to the final phase of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, her delegation had noted with appreciation the proposals to promote the teaching of human rights and develop human rights machinery. Maximum publicity must be given to the campaign against racism: greater impact could be achieved through the use of films, rather than relying only on documents. Efforts must also be made to urge those States that had not yet done so to become parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.[3] The financial crisis confronting the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was a source of concern; all States parties to the Convention should honour their obligations. The proposal to hold a seminar on the obstacles to the eradication of racism was welcome, as was the proposal that specialized bodies in the United Nations system should provide annual reports to the Council on progress made towards the objectives of the Decade.

30. In taking measures to preserve the linguistic rights of minority groups, indigenous populations and migrant workers, care must be taken to ensure that they were not alienated from the mainstream of national life. The majority group should be introduced to their culture. Accordingly, her delegation welcomed the proposed seminar on cultural dialogue between countries of origin and the host countries of migrant workers.

31. The heroic resistance of the peoples of southern Africa had revealed them to be the true champions of human rights. The foremost objective for the remainder of the Second Decade should be to eliminate *apartheid.* Pakistan had adhered to the International Covenants on Human Rights,[12] and was studying the question of their ratification.

32. Mr. GUILLAUME (France) said that human rights had initially been taken to relate to freedom *vis-à-vis* the State and the integrity of the individual, to which had been added economic, social and cultural rights.

33. The preparation of reports under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[5] placed a heavy burden on Governments. While the procedure was valuable, an attempt should be made to eliminate the occasional duplication of effort. France had noted the useful remarks made by the Human Rights Committee with respect to article 40 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, concerning the status of foreigners. The Committee should continue to make use of its authority under that article. France also welcomed the increasing recognition of the right of individuals to communicate directly with the Committee.

34. States also had an onerous reporting commitment under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.[5] His delegation welcomed the guidelines on the preparation of reports given to States parties by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/1987/L.15,[7] sect. III.B). France agreed with the Committee that non-governmental organizations should have the right to submit written communications.

35. Progress must be made in the acceptance and application of international human rights instruments and in the identification of rights not yet covered by such instruments. Those States that had not yet ratified the International Covenants on Human Rights[12] should do so. With respect to the recognition of additional rights, France had played an active role at the United Nations in the formulation of the right to development, and welcomed the adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Development.[13] The essential concept was that development was not limited to material aspects, but also embraced respect for human dignity. Finally, his delegation trusted that the twentieth anniversary of the International Covenants on Human Rights would provide a stimulus for renewed progress.

36. Mr. GVIR (Observer for Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that, in 1975, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 3379 (XXX) which attempted to delegitimize zionism, the national liberation movement of the State of Israel. Since that time, Israel had considered the United Nations to be an inappropriate forum for dealing with matters concerning racial discrimination.

37. Over the past few days, several delegations had made statements containing irrelevant references to his country. Not surprisingly, some of the worst violators of human rights—Governments which regularly practised racial discrimination against the very people they purported to represent—had spoken out against acts of repression. The delegations concerned should assess the situation in their own countries before coming to the United Nations to preach about racial discrimination. The transparent remarks made by some representatives during the debate should not in any way influence the decisions which would be adopted by the Council.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (E/1987/L.20)

38. Mrs. SELLAMI MESLEM (Director of the Branch for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that 92 States had ratified or acceded to the Con-

vention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.[14] In addition, Switzerland had signed the Convention on 23 January 1987. Of the 94 signatures the Convention had received, 78 had been followed by ratification. Although that was a welcome trend, the rapid increase in ratifications entailed a corresponding number of reports which States parties had to submit to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women for consideration one year after they ratified the Convention. As of 10 April 1987, the Secretariat had received 49 initial reports of the 85 due by that date and 6 second periodic reports of the 30 due on the same date.

39. At its sixth session, held at Vienna from 30 March to 10 April 1987, the Committee had considered eight reports. So far, the Committee had examined a total of 34 reports. At the sixth session, two working groups had been established—one to consider and suggest ways of expediting the work of the Committee, and the other to consider ways of implementing article 21 of the Convention. Working Group I had recommended that summary records should be limited to substantive matters, and the Committee had agreed, as an economy measure, to issue summary records in English and French only for its current session. A co-ordinated system for questioning States parties presenting reports had been developed in order to reduce the length of meetings. Working Group II had decided that general recommendations by the Committee allowed for the continuation of the dialogue already established with States parties, and the Committee considered article 21 of the Convention to be an efficient tool for monitoring the implementation of the Convention.

40. The Committee had adopted at its sixth session three general recommendations and four decisions. The Committee had recommended that the general guidelines set out by the Committee in 1983 should be followed by States parties when preparing their initial reports, and that supplementary material should be submitted at least three months prior to the relevant session; that all States parties should adopt education and public information programmes to help eliminate prejudices and current practices which hindered the social equality of women; and that States parties should consider withdrawing the reservations which they had made when they ratified the Convention.

41. At the same session, the Committee had decided to invite the specialized agencies of the United Nations system to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities; to request the United Nations system as a whole, in particular the specialized agencies and the Commission on the Status of Women, to promote and undertake studies on the status of women under Islamic laws and customs; to recommend to States parties that they should ensure that adequate time was made available for the Committee to consider the reports; and to request the Council to recommend to the General Assembly that it should approve and provide the necessary resources for eight additional meetings of the Committee in 1988.

42. Mr. POERSCHKE (German Democratic Republic) said that the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) had become an internationally respected forum of experts in the field of human rights, and a constructive dialogue had developed between members of the Committee and individual States parties. The work of CEDAW must continue to focus on reports of States parties on the implementation of the Convention, but questions regarding the interpretation of articles of the Convention fell within the exclusive competence of States parties. He questioned whether it was appropriate for the Committee to propose the adoption of resolutions by the Economic and Social Council or the General Assembly.

43. There was a growing awareness that social progress, social security, equality, happiness and well-being could be reached only in conditions of peace. The efforts to reach concrete agreements in order to reduce world tension, to bring about arms limitation and disarmament and to develop normal relations between States and peoples were in complete conformity with the purposes and principles of the Convention. The participation of women in the struggle for peace was one of their fundamental political rights.

44. In the German Democratic Republic, men and women enjoyed equal rights and were guaranteed the right to participate equally in the development of society. The Government of the German Democratic Republic was firmly resolved to continue its tried and tested social policy based on dynamic economic growth and to improve the material prerequisites for enhancing women's rights. His country had enacted legislation which enabled women to combine their tasks as equal citizens with their social function as mothers.

45. Mr. QUINN (Australia) said his delegation was pleased that the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) had taken vigorous measures to enhance and streamline its reporting procedures. All human rights treaty bodies should seek to develop similar procedures in order to facilitate the task of States parties, and should draw upon experience gained in confronting common problems, such as backlog. That would facilitate the development of a coherent international network to supervise the implementation of critical legal instruments.

46. In view of the limited resources available to the Branch for the Advancement of Women and the broad scope of the Convention, the Committee must receive additional Secretariat support. Moreover, because of the legal nature of its work, the Committee must continue to receive summary records. The Committee had demonstrated a keen awareness of the capacity of the United Nations system to assist it in its work. In particular, Australia welcomed the references to system-wide information gathering with regard to the status of women, and had suggested that there could be closer collaboration between the Commission on the Status of Women and CEDAW, especially in the fields of monitoring and evaluation.

47. The request for reports from the specialized agencies on the implementation of the Convention should give new impetus to system-wide activities to promote the advancement of women. The research and information support which could be provided by the specialized agencies could play a critical role in strengthening the Committee's information base.

48. Australia welcomed the step-by-step approach being taken to resolve the difficult question of the broad reservations made by States parties when they ratified

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[14] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

the Convention. Reservations which were incompatible with the spirit and intent of that instrument were a legitimate subject of discussion when States parties presented periodic reports. Australia endorsed the Committee's recommendation that all States parties should regularly review their reservations in order to ensure that they were necessary and appropriate.

49. The Committee had requested the Council to recommend that CEDAW should extend its annual session by one week. Australia would support that request if the additional costs were offset elsewhere in the United Nations system.

50. The Convention and the work of CEDAW should receive greater publicity. The Convention should be used to advance the status of women at the international level. Greater emphasis should be placed on the international debate on the Convention, which underpinned United Nations work in that field. The Department of Public Information should disseminate the Convention more widely in the various United Nations languages and should produce and distribute audio-visual and other appropriate materials relating to key provisions of the Convention. Australia welcomed the efforts of non-governmental organizations and academics to monitor the proceedings of CEDAW and disseminate information about that body and the Convention.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

10th meeting

Monday, 11 May 1987, at 10.55 a.m.

President: Mr. Eugeniusz NOWORYTA (Poland)

E/1987/SR.10

AGENDA ITEM 2

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*continued*) (E/1987/L.23)

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION (E/1987/L.23)

1. Miss ACHKAR (Guinea), introducing draft resolution E/1987/L.23 on behalf of the States members of the Council which are members of the Group of African States, said that, in the operative part of the draft, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-second session a comprehensive and updated report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade, and a revised report outlining a proposed plan of activities to be implemented during the second half of the Second Decade; invited the Secretary-General to solicit observations, views and proposals of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies on the preparation of the draft plan of activities for 1990-1993; invited all Governments to take measures to combat all forms of racism and racial discrimination and to support the work of the Second Decade; and decided to give particular attention to the specific activities of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade directed towards the elimination of *apartheid*. The members of the Group of African States hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEMS 5 AND 6

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (*continued*) (E/1987/L.24)

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (*continued*) (E/1987/L.24 and E/1987/L.25)

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS (E/1987/L.24)

2. Mr. MAKSIMOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), introducing draft resolution E/1987/L.24 on behalf of Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic and the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, said that, on the whole, the operative part of the draft resolution consisted of paragraphs which had been adopted by consensus at sessions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights. Unfortunately, his delegation had not had time to consult all interested delegations, but it was prepared to consider their comments on the draft and any amendments thereto. The sponsors of the draft resolution hoped that it would be adopted unanimously.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (E/1987/L.25)

3. Mr. QUINN (Australia), introducing draft resolution E/1987/L.25 on behalf of his country and of Canada, Costa Rica, Guinea, the Federal Republic of Germany, Jamaica, Norway, the Philippines, Senegal and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, said that the draft resolution reaffirmed the Council's central role under the specific terms of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. At the same time, the Council must respect the prerogatives of the new independent expert Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in developing its own jurisprudence in relation to the consideration of reports. The draft resolution recognized the relationship between the Covenant and the Council, and also attempted to give the Committee the status of its counterpart, the Human Rights Committee, which dealt with civil and political rights. The sponsors hoped that the Council would adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

AGENDA ITEM 8

United Nations University (E/1987/26)

4. Mr. SOEDJATMOKO (Rector of the United Nations University) said that there were currently 39 associated institutions which worked with the United Nations University in carrying out its research and training programme. The University also co-operated with many other scholars and institutions on a less formal basis. In addition, the Charter of the United Nations University[15] provided for the creation by the University of its own research and training centres. In 1986, the Council of the University had established the second University research and training centre, the Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (INRA), which would be situated in Côte d'Ivoire, with a research unit in Zambia. The first University research and training centre, the Helsinki-based World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER), had pursued a full programme of research in 1986 under the themes of hunger and poverty; money, trade and finance; and development and technological transformation. Eighty-nine research papers had been presented at five major research conferences held at the Institute in 1986.

5. A number of other possibilities for University research and training centres were being explored. Next week, he would travel to the Netherlands to discuss the report of a feasibility study on a centre to study issues of new technology, mobility and regional development. Representatives of the University had recently held discussions with the Government of Austria, which had agreed to fund a feasibility study on a research and training centre on outer space studies. The University was continuing to develop plans for a research and training centre in Japan. Such possibilities indicated that the University was entering a new phase of maturity, which brought it closer to fulfilling its Charter.

6. While the possibilities for institutional development were being explored, the main work of the University in research, training and dissemination of knowledge had gone forward. For example, in October 1986, the University had co-sponsored an international workshop which had led to the establishment of the Association for African Highland and Mountain Research. A new University publication on the study of chronic undernutrition, published in 1986, had been widely accepted as a methodological basis for research in the field, and the University had been asked to take lead-agency responsibility for an International Dietary Energy Consultancy Group to disseminate available information and draw attention to gaps in the knowledge of human adaptation to undernutrition.

7. In 1986, the University had trained some 700 scientists from developing countries in microprocessor technology and 200 in other programme areas, with 150 fellows remaining in mid-course at the end of the year. As its contribution to the International Year of Peace, the University had held a series of meetings on peace and security, from which six volumes of analysis would emerge in due course.

8. The University was in a period of transition: the end of the first medium-term perspective was approaching, and a new Rector would shortly assume his position. The problems addressed in the first medium-term perspective had begun to coalesce into a few broad clusters, indicating the direction of the second medium-term perspective. Recent financial developments had had a devastating impact on the University, which was in great need of new resources. Nevertheless, the current financial uncertainties must not obscure the importance of what had been achieved or the University's potential.

9. Mr. TANIGUCHI (Japan) said his delegation noted with appreciation that many of the projects under the first medium-term perspective had entered their concluding phase in 1986 and that the dissemination of research results was being given increasing emphasis. The University's training and research activities were being more closely integrated, while the number of fellowships had increased, and many fellows from developing countries had gone on to play leading roles in their fields. The University should strengthen those activities that benefited developing countries. His Government also noted the continued development of WIDER and INRA.

10. The level of the Endowment Fund gave cause for concern. Unfavourable circumstances, such as exchange rate fluctuations, were imposing significant constraints on the University's programme of activities. Further measures were necessary to achieve greater economies and safeguard operational expenditure. His delegation appealed for additional funding for the University, which should also strengthen its fund-raising activities. Additional efforts should be devoted to disseminating information on the University's achievements.

11. His delegation hoped that the report of the Ten-Year Evaluation Committee would contain constructive proposals on how to improve the University's activities and that they would be reflected in the second medium-term perspective. The University should select its fields of study in line with world priorities so as to ensure the relevance of its work. Finally, his Government would facilitate the construction of a permanent headquarters for the University at the earliest possible date.

12. Mr. STEBELSKI (Poland) said that his delegation had followed with keen interest the development of the University's research, training and information activities, and was highly appreciative of the University's outputs. Increasing emphasis should now be given to dissemination of information and closer integration of training and research activities. His delegation noted that the University was still enlarging its institutional structures with the establishment of the second research and training centre, while more such projects were under development. His Government welcomed the University's co-operation with the international academic and scientific community, including the Research Centre on International Debt and Development in Poland. Finally, his delegation welcomed the decision to conduct an external evaluation of the first 10 years of activities of the University and hoped that it would bring the University's work into a still closer relationship with global issues.

13. Mr. KIURU (Observer for Finland), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said it was gratifying that many projects had now entered their final phase and that emphasis had been placed on the dissemination of research results. The Nordic delegations welcomed the

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[15] A/9149/Add.2.

more analytical approach adopted in the report of the Council of the University on the work of the University in 1986 (E/1987/26), although there was still a tendency merely to list projects. The decision to conduct an external evaluation of the first 10 years of activities was welcome, and would facilitate the next medium-term perspective. The University should pinpoint those areas where meaningful research could be conducted; sharper focus rather than expansion should be the guiding principle. Scarce resources required that programme planning remain realistic and focused on priority areas. In that respect, his delegation commended WIDER for having concentrated on the specific themes of hunger and poverty; money, trade and finance; and development and technological transformation. In view of the uncertain financial basis of the Institute, the Nordic delegations assumed that the issue of the financial viability of WIDER and INRA would be thoroughly discussed at the next session of the Council of the University.

14. Mr. WANG Baoliu (China) said that under the outgoing Rector the University had made considerable progress in its nine programme areas, in particular with regard to the establishment of its research and training centres. Attention should now be concentrated on priority areas—for example, on tackling the problems of hunger and poverty that affected vast segments of the world population. In the second medium-term perspective, the University should deal with areas such as information and microprocessor technology, in particular training activities and the dissemination of such technology to developing countries. With respect to institutional development, the University headquarters should not be simply an administrative centre, but should serve as a venue for scientists from developing countries. Many of the institutions with which the University had forged links were in Europe and North America, and the time had come to extend those links to research institutions in the developing world. In response to the uncertain financial situation, China would make an appropriate contribution in the near future. Further attention should be paid to streamlining administrative procedures and costs; in that connection, the Council of the University might consider holding one session a year instead of two.

15. Mr. ZELENOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the internationalization of the modern world, especially in humanitarian, social and economic areas, called for the involvement of the international community, including the United Nations and its agencies, in all aspects of life. The United Nations University (UNU) had a useful role to play in ensuring the well-being of people all over the world through its research work and the dissemination of knowledge in scientific and other circles throughout the world.

16. The University was an authoritative forum for studying problems of peace and security and questions of social and humanitarian import, and could actively promote efforts to ensure predictability in economic relations among States and the search for mutually advantageous solutions and common ground among countries in dealing with trade, financial and economic problems. UNU could make a valuable contribution to the promotion of peace and security and the development of the concept of international economic security in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 40/173 and 41/184, since those issues were linked to the work of the World Institute for Development Economics Research and the University's major programme areas, particularly programme areas 1(*a*) Peace and global transformation (E/1987/27, para. 22); 2(*b*) Global macro-economic policy (*ibid*., para. 29); and 2(*d*) Debt, stabilization and development (*ibid*., para. 31).

17. His delegation hoped that the University's new administration would give new impetus to the work of the Organization, especially in the aforementioned areas. The Soviet Union was co-operating successfully with UNU, and would continue to do so in future.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (*continued*) (E/1987/L.20)

18. Mr. TANIGUCHI (Japan) said that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[14] was one of the outstanding achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women. His Government had ratified the Convention without reservations, and his delegation hoped that as many States as possible would become parties to it.

19. With regard to the request by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in its report (E/1987/L.20,[16] para. 580) for an extra eight meetings at its 1988 session, his delegation recognized the Committee's significant role and its serious backlog; nevertheless, the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 had emphasized the urgency of carrying out a financial and administrative reform of the Organization. Increasing the efficiency and productivity of the Committee's deliberations was a key element in helping it to carry out its mandate; improving its reporting system and methods for examining country reports, for example, would also contribute to that end.

20. In his delegation's view, reservations incompatible with the purposes of the Convention should not be accepted. However, countries that were working towards the aims of the Convention should not be discouraged from becoming parties to it provided that their reservations did not obviously fall within that category.

21. The Committee could be useful as a follow-up mechanism for the implementation of the Convention, and his delegation hoped that all States parties would act in concert to ensure that the Committee maximized its potential. Japan pledged its utmost co-operation in bringing about progress in the crucial field of women's rights.

22. Mr. ZVEZDIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) announced that a World Women's Congress would be held in Moscow from 23 to 27 June with the slogan, "To the year 2000 without nuclear weapons, for peace, equality and development". The Congress was to be organized by the International Democratic Federation of Women, with the participation of national, regional and international non-governmental organizations, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, gov-

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[16] Preliminary version; the final version was subsequently issued as document A/42/38.

ernment and public service personnel, and representatives of science, culture and the arts.

23. The goals of the World Women's Congress were fully in line with the goals of the United Nations aimed at promoting the advancement of women and increasing the influence of women on world events. It would be the most significant international event for women since the Nairobi World Conference, enabling women from all over the world to exchange views on all the problems which must be solved in order to achieve the genuinely equal status of women throughout the world, including many questions dealt with in documents adopted by various United Nations organs, and to observe at first hand the measures being carried out in the Soviet Union to improve the status of women. The 1985 Nairobi Conference had convincingly shown the desire of women all over the world to participate more fully and equitably in the life of their countries and to fight for equality, peace and social progress. The Moscow Congress, too, would focus on equality, the participation of women in development, and the right to life in conditions of peace and freedom.

24. International Women's Year, the Mexico City,[17] Copenhagen[18] and Nairobi Conferences[19] and the United Nations Decade for Women had promoted the elimination of the remaining obstacles to women's full development and had made it increasingly apparent that equality depended on the solution of social development problems. That approach, too, would be followed at the Moscow Congress.

25. A major achievement of the Decade had been the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[14] to which 90 States were parties. The Convention was an essential part of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[19] and hence the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women should be seen as a component in the follow-up to the Conference.

26. His delegation welcomed the Committee's report on its sixth session (E/1987/L.20[16]). The atmosphere of co-operation which prevailed in the Committee was particularly commendable, and it had produced useful recommendations regarding the conduct of its work and examined a substantial number of national reports on the implementation of the provisions of the Convention. The Convention had become one of the basic international legal instruments, together with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[8] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[5] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[5] and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.[3]

27. Another important product of the United Nations Decade for Women was the Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Co-operation,[20] which had acknowledged women's increasing role in international co-operation for peace and against the arms race, as well as the relationship between political and social problems. The Nairobi Conference had demonstrated the unbreakable link between the elimination of discrimination against women and progress in implementing the goals of the Decade for Women, namely, equality, development and peace. The United Nations should continue its activities along those lines in, among other forums, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

28. Ms. DERMENDJIEVA (Bulgaria) said that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[14] was rightly considered one of the major achievements of the United Nations. The increasing number of States acceding to it bore witness to its importance. The Convention's impact on all other United Nations activities for the advancement of women had also made it an integral part of the international efforts deployed in accordance with the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women[9] and their three major aims: equality, development and peace.

29. Constructive discussion in the Council and other relevant United Nations bodies of achievements and remaining problems was of great importance for the successful continuation of the work undertaken so far. Accordingly, her delegation regretted the Secretariat's inability to produce and distribute the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its sixth session (E/1987/L.20[16]) until the last moment. Such occurrences, which disturbed the normal working of all participating delegations, should be avoided in the future.

30. The report reflected a serious and constructive approach to the Committee's mandate. The consideration of reports covering eight countries (*ibid.*, paras. 63-572) was careful and detailed, and efforts had been made to streamline the Committee's work. The Committee had also, by hearing a statement by a representative of the United Nations Council for Namibia, demonstrated its awareness of the role of all United Nations organs and other relevant bodies concerned with the advancement of women in finding a solution to *apartheid,* as an inseparable element of the international efforts for the implementation of the Nairobi Strategies.

31. However, the Committee had perhaps spent too much time discussing organizational matters, rather than considering reports. While its request for extra meetings (*ibid.*, para. 580) was probably justified by the backlog of reports and by the importance of its work, her delegation had doubts regarding the procedural acceptability of what was in fact a draft resolution submitted by the Committee to the Council, since the Convention did not envisage such a relationship between the two bodies. The usefulness of general recommendation 4 (*ibid.*, para. 579) regarding the withdrawal of reservations and decision 4 (*ibid.*, para. 583) regarding the status of women under Islamic laws and customs was also questionable. Both touched upon an issue that had been adequately dealt with at the 1986 meeting of States parties, and on which a separate decision had

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[17] See *Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico, 19 June-2 July 1975* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1).

[18] See *Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen, 14-30 July 1980* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3 and corrigendum).

[19] See *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10).

[20] General Assembly resolution 37/63, annex.

been adopted which would provide an opportunity for all States concerned to express their views at the 1988 meeting of States parties. To prejudge the outcome of that exchange of views might be unproductive. Those examples indicated how the Committee could focus more closely on the performance of its basic functions under the Convention, eschewing initiatives which, although well motivated, might lead it beyond its mandate.

32. Her delegation welcomed the forthcoming World Women's Congress, to be convened in Moscow in June. Its work would make a significant contribution to the main objectives of development, equality and peace of the Forward-looking Strategies.

33. Mrs. REFUVEILLE (France) said that the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its sixth session continued to underscore the importance of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.[14] In France, many factors had combined during the past 15 years to produce changes in French law, which now guaranteed women treatment equal to that of men. The implementation of such legislation, however, implied a long-term effort, to which the French Government was committed.

34. Since the Council's second regular session of 1986, her Government had withdrawn its reservations to paragraph 1 of article 16 of the Convention as it concerned the joint administration of children's property by fathers and mothers, paragraphs 2 and 3 of article 15 and paragraphs 1 (*b*) and (*c*) of article 16, since recent changes in French legislation made them irrelevant. Reservations which had been expressed with regard to paragraph (*b*) of article 5 and paragraph 1 (*d*) of article 16 would be reviewed in the light of a new bill on parental authority. Paragraph 1 (*g*) of article 16 would also be reviewed in the light of new legislation concerning the format of official family record books.

35. She welcomed the fact that the number of States parties to the Convention was growing, but suggested that the working methods of the Committee should be studied, in view of the increasing number of reports coming before it, and that in considering the reports of States parties, the Committee should place more emphasis on substance than on format.

36. A number of judgements concerning the situation of women in France appeared in the report of the Committee on its sixth session (E/1987/L.20[16]) which did not correspond to the actual—exemplary—situation obtaining in that country. Such statements ignored the wealth of positive information which had been placed before the Committee.

37. Mrs. REBONG (Philippines) welcomed the recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its sixth session, particularly the decision to invite the specialized agencies to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities (E/1987/L.20[16], para. 581). Given that the activities of various United Nations bodies were interrelated, the importance of co-operation and co-ordination should be emphasized during the current financial crisis.

38. Her delegation supported the Committee's request (*ibid*., para. 580) that the Council recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a resolution approving, on an exceptional basis, the holding of eight additional meetings of the Committee in 1988, in order to cope with the increasing number of reports being submitted to it for consideration. The work done by the Committee thus far was commendable, but the current allotment of 10 days for its annual sessions was clearly insufficient, since reports which could not be considered during a particular session soon became outdated. Her delegation also supported the remarks made by the representative of Australia (9th meeting, para. 50) with regard to publicizing the work of the Committee.

39. The Philippines remained sincerely committed to the cause of women, and to that end had recognized the role of women in national development in its new national Constitution.

40. Ms. GIBSON (Canada) commended the work done by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its sixth session, but expressed concern at the large number of reservations made by some countries with regard to the substantive provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[14] particularly since many of those reservations could be considered to contravene paragraph 2 of article 28. She urged States parties to review their reservations with a view to taking steps to withdraw them, as provided for in paragraph 3 of article 28. She also hoped that the exchange of views concerning reservations would continue at the next meeting of States parties to the Convention in 1988.

41. Turning to the Committee's report on its sixth session (E/1987/L.20[16]), she joined other delegations in expressing dissatisfaction at its late appearance. Nevertheless, the work of the session represented a remarkable improvement over previous sessions, particularly in terms of the Committee's efficiency. She welcomed the establishment of two Working Groups, which, meeting on their own time, had aligned themselves with the reform process taking place in the Economic and Social Council. Her delegation also welcomed the adoption by the Committee of two general recommendations, in keeping with article 21 of the Convention, and of procedures and decisions relating to its work.

42. Because the high number of Convention ratifications had resulted in an influx of initial country reports, States parties must provide the Committee with the resources it desperately needed to do its job properly: it had been underbudgeted since its inception, and it should be treated on the same basis as the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

43. Ms. NIEMANN (Canada) said that the financial implications of the request by the Committee for additional meeting time in 1988 were not adequately spelt out in annex V of document E/1987/L.20,[16] and requested the Secretariat to provide information which would facilitate the taking of a decision on that request.

44. She first wished to know the actual costs incurred by the Committee's fourth session at Vienna in 1985 and its fifth session, held in New York in 1986, and specifically: the subsistence and travel costs of experts; the subsistence and travel costs of staff; conference-servicing costs, including the cost of documentation, interpretation, summary records and general services; the number and level of staff providing substantive servicing for the Committee; and the number and level of staff providing conference services for the Committee.

45. Section 6 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 (A/42/6 (sect. 6)) dealing with the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, indicated that resources for the subprogramme which covered the Committee had been reduced. While the actual amount of that reduction was relatively small, she sought assurance from the Secretariat that there would be no reduction in the resources allocated to the Committee.

46. For comparative purposes, she also wished to know the actual costs of the 1985 and 1986 sessions of the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and, where possible, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the estimated costs of meetings of those bodies during the forthcoming biennium. Finally, she asked that the information requested should be provided to the Council prior to the deadline for the submission of draft proposals on the agenda item currently under discussion.

47. The PRESIDENT noted that the deadline for the submission of draft proposals on item 4, which was currently under consideration, was 1 p.m. the following day.

48. Mr. SIDDIKY (Bangladesh) said his Government was seriously concerned by certain presumptuous and baseless remarks concerning Bangladesh which appeared in the preliminary, unedited report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/1987/L.20[16]). In paragraph 511 of the report, problems relating to the status of women had been linked with Islamic law even though there was no logical connection between the two. Such insinuations were not only incorrect and illogical, but insensitive; they exceeded the norms of multilateral diplomacy and did more harm than good to the cause which the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[14] supported.

49. The reference to the quality and presentation of the English version of the periodic report of Bangladesh in paragraph 511 of the report of the Committee focused inappropriately on style rather than substance and was a source of dismay to his delegation. The additional reference to Islamic law in paragraph 517 likewise evidenced little regard for facts.

50. Such baseless and ill-motivated linking of the condition of women to religion must not be repeated. The remarks contained in paragraphs 511 and 517 and the recommendation contained in paragraph 583 of the report should be deleted. Finally, he wished to point out, for the Committee's edification, that the acknowledged opposition leader and the presidents of two main political parties in Bangladesh were women.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

51. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had received requests from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council, to address the Second (Social) Committee under the agenda item entitled "human rights", and the International Union of Local Authorities, to address the First (Economic) Committee under the item entitled "public administration and finance". Both non-governmental organizations held Category I consultative status with the Council. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council approved the two requests.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

11th meeting

Monday, 18 May 1987, at 10.45 a.m.

President: Mr. Eugeniusz NOWORYTA (Poland)

E/1987/SR.11

AGENDA ITEM 4

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (*continued*) (E/1987/L.20, E/1987/L.27)

Draft resolution on the Convention (E/1987/L.27)

1. Mr. THORSTEINSSON (Iceland), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by China, said that much of the text was identical to that of Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/4. New additions included the final preambular paragraph and paragraphs 5, 7 and 8, which sought to ensure that the concern expressed by delegations during the current session regarding certain references to Islamic law in the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (E/1987/L.20[16]), was fully reflected. Paragraphs 8, 10 and 12 of the draft resolution concerned the organization of the Committee's work, including in particular its request for additional meetings, while paragraph 12 requested the Secretary-General to facilitate and encourage public information activities relating to CEDAW and the Convention.

2. The text had been the subject of extensive informal negotiations and accommodated all the concerns expressed by Council members. It was to be hoped that the draft could be adopted by consensus and that it would be the only resolution adopted by the Council on the item.

3. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to resume its consideration of the item.

4. Mr. KONATÉ (Senegal) said that women had been instrumental in Senegal's struggle for independence and its economic and social development. In becoming a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All

Forms of Discrimination against Women,[14] Senegal had merely reaffirmed the commitment to women which was reflected in the Senegalese Constitution and other national legislation. He welcomed the high number of ratifications of the Convention, noting that nearly one third of the 92 States parties were African countries.

5. The Council should encourage the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) by providing it with the resources it required to carry out its noble task. For its part, CEDAW should bear in mind the need to develop a constructive dialogue with States parties to the Convention by helping them develop legal codes that would foster women's liberation. CEDAW had addressed that issue in general recommendation 3, adopted at its sixth session, which emphasized the need for education and information programmes as well as legislative measures to combat discrimination against women. The need for training and education had recently been emphasized in Senegal by the holding of a "women's fortnight", which had served as a forum for study and assessment of the Government's effort on behalf of women.

6. His delegation shared the concern of CEDAW with regard to reservations made by States acceding to the Convention. The increase in the number and scope of such reservations might in fact reduce the Convention's impact, not only because of their excessively broad interpretation on the part of the States entering them, but also by eliciting additional objections from other States, thereby hindering the development of co-operation between States parties. Reservations should not contradict the purposes of the Convention, and States which had made reservations should reconsider them. He welcomed the fact that the question of reservations would be discussed by States parties to the Convention at their next meeting.

7. The Council must seek to ensure that the Convention incorporated different cultural values, since it was intended to be adapted to the legal and social systems of individual States. Unfortunately, the report of the Committee on its sixth session (E/1987/L.20[16]), indicated that, in considering the report of a certain State party to the Convention, the Committee had cited social and religious factors, including Islam, as obstacles to that country's implementation of the Convention. That conclusion was perhaps due to certain Committee members' lack of information about the values and precepts of Islam regarding women's place in society. Rather than criticize the religious beliefs and morals of States, CEDAW should draw inspiration from them, the better to appreciate the situation of women in countries where women sometimes enjoyed exceptional privileges. It would be dangerous for the Committee to assess progress taking only one type of society as a point of reference.

8. Consequently, his delegation had serious reservations regarding the appropriateness of the studies called for by CEDAW in decision 4, particularly in view of paragraphs 511, 516 and 517 of the CEDAW report. While such a study might indeed broaden the Committee's understanding, it should not cover only selected topics but rather all of the world's systems of values and belief. Furthermore, it should be carried out by competent experts or institutions.

9. Finally, he called for the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women[19] and expressed the hope that the relationship between the legal status and material and social condition of women would be taken up by the Commission on the Status of Women in its evaluation of those Strategies.

10. Mrs. NIKOLIĆ (Observer for Yugoslavia) emphasized the importance of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[14] and its implementation by States parties. She commended the spirit of co-operation which had marked the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) during its sixth session and the Committee's efforts to rationalize its work. It was unfortunate, however, that the report of the Committee on its sixth session (E/1987/L.20[16]) contained opinions and statements which were incorrect.

11. She expressed support for the request by CEDAW for eight extra meetings in 1988, particularly since its current annual session was one week shorter than those of other treaty monitoring bodies. The consideration of reports of States parties by CEDAW was an important way to assess the gap between the satisfactory status which women in most countries enjoyed under the law and their *de facto* position in society.

12. The question of reservations to the Convention had been a source of concern to States parties for some time; she therefore hoped that the question would be considered thoroughly by the States parties at their meeting in New York in 1988. States parties that had expressed reservations would then become more aware of other parties' concerns and could be encouraged to withdraw their reservations in order to preserve and promote the spirit and aims of the Convention.

13. Mr. MIAN (Pakistan) said that, although his country's commitment to the principles of human dignity and the promotion of universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction of any kind was second to none, Pakistan had been unable to sign the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[14] because of certain reservations. Unfortunately, those reservations had been reinforced by the deliberations and conclusions of CEDAW at its sixth session.

14. His delegation was perplexed and dismayed at sections of the report on that session (E/1987/L.20[16]), specifically, paragraphs 511 to 517 and decision 4, contained in paragraph 583. The Committee's pronouncements, which were clearly directed at all Islamic societies and countries, were highly arbitrary, thoroughly ill-informed and wholly unwarranted. They were derogatory not only to Bangladesh and all other Muslim countries but to the great religion of Islam as well, and his delegation categorically condemned them.

15. It was appalling that the Committee had failed to acknowledge Islam's protection and promotion of women's rights and status for more than 1,400 years. Equally unacceptable was the report's manifest bias against the values, traditions and socio-economic fabric of Islamic countries in particular and developing countries in general. In assuming a moralistic posture, the Committee had misused the United Nations to project partisan views and engage in selective and subjective criticism.

16. As for the studies called for in paragraph 583 of the report, one might legitimately ask what their purpose was. If they were intended to educate the members

of CEDAW, he suggested that the Committee should consult the numerous studies on Islam and Islamic societies which existed in the world's libraries. There was no compelling need for new studies on that subject. If, on the other hand, the purpose of the proposed studies was to inform and influence Islamic societies, the proposal was faulty in principle and would prove to be utterly useless in practice. Islamic societies accepted as valid only those studies which emanated from eminent Muslim scholars; studies by the United Nations, no matter how well-intentioned, would be completely disregarded.

17. It was clear from paragraphs 44 and 45 of the report, as well as from the account of the Committee's consideration of the periodic report of Bangladesh, that CEDAW was functioning in a legal vacuum, having no clear understanding or definition of its mandate. The Committee had in fact exceeded its mandate under article 21 of the Convention, which authorized it only to make suggestions and general recommendations. To prevent any similar irregularities from occurring in the future, the Council should seriously consider recommending to the General Assembly that CEDAW should be provided with a legal counsel. CEDAW should exercise the utmost circumspection in conducting its deliberations and in formulating suggestions and recommendations in respect of Islamic countries and societies. The Committee should realize that it was engaged in a delicate task, and that it was incumbent upon it to show due respect and understanding towards the religious beliefs, customs, traditions and values of all peoples.

18. Miss PULIDO-SANTANA (Venezuela) said that general recommendation 2, contained in the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (E/1987/L.20[16]), would be very useful to States parties in the preparation of reports. Her delegation believed that many countries, in particular the developing countries, would derive great benefit from the submission of information supplementing their initial report and that, in many cases, such information would make up for the report's deficiencies.

19. With regard to general recommendation 3, her delegation agreed that States parties should adopt education and public information programmes which would help eliminate prejudices and current practices which hindered women's full enjoyment of social equality.

20. Education and the dissemination of information could play an important role in eradicating myths and prejudices which, in certain societies, were very deep-rooted. The task of changing social attitudes was an arduous one and, in general, its results would be seen only in the medium or long term.

21. With regard to decision 1, her delegation believed that the General Assembly should approve, on an exceptional basis, eight additional meetings of the Committee in 1988 to enable it to complete its consideration of reports within a reasonable period after their submission, and that the Assembly should request the Secretary-General to provide the Committee with the necessary resources. Venezuela also supported decision 2, in which the Committee decided that specialized agencies should be invited to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities.

22. Mrs. AL-TURAIHI (Iraq) said that, despite neocolonialist attempts to impose Western values on Islamic society and to sow discord among the Arab nations, Iraq was confident that the Islamic heritage and its progressive ideas and lofty principles could defend the behavioural and intellectual values which stood for the original and glorious nature of Arab society. The problems of the developing countries could not be solved by imposing ideas of supremacy. Rather, solutions lay in the removal of the main obstacles, such as poverty, illiteracy and backwardness, which confronted the societies of those countries.

23. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women must abide by the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[14] which gave States the right to express their reservations on certain provisions as a result of their social and legal practices. The experts should not make specific proposals, since that practice ran counter to article 21 of the Convention. Iraq had reservations regarding the comments and views concerning Bangladesh expressed by the Committee in its report (E/1987/L.20,[16] paras. 511 and 517). The Committee should reconsider its decision 4, since the family was the basis of society and it was the duty of society to protect the family. In many countries, industrialization had affected prevailing values and concepts and had led to the disintegration of the family, to drug addiction and to juvenile delinquency.

24. Despite seven years of war, Iraq was preparing its first periodic report, which dealt with the accomplishments of Iraqi women since the revolution of July 1968. The report called for equality between men and women, and stressed the new role of Iraqi women in the social, legal, political and economic fields.

25. Mr. BANGO BANGO nyi MBEKWEEMBI wa GBAU (Zaire) said that until 1955, the year in which secular schools were opened, education in Zaire had been the monopoly of religious congregations. The Zairian women engaged in education were often nuns or women who had left the convent. After 1955, official or private congregational schools, faced with competition from secular schools where girls and boys received the same education, began to make timid efforts at reform. When Zaire became independent on 30 June 1960, Zairian women were not yet prepared to assume their responsibilities, and they took advantage of the early years of independence to overcome the darkness of colonial obscurantism. The Second Republic, which had been declared on 24 November 1965, had opened the way for the emancipation of Zairian women. Since then, they had participated increasingly in all aspects of national life. Discriminatory laws against Zairian women were slowly being abolished and new ones, which assured the full enjoyment of equal rights, were being adopted. The National Legislative Council had recently adopted the law on the family, which protected Zairian women from injustices resulting from local customs or from the juridical void inherited from colonialism.

26. His delegation commended the excellent report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/1987/L.20[16]), and hoped that the United Nations Secretariat and the Committee would find the necessary resources to enable the Committee to complete its consideration of reports submitted by

States parties to the Convention. That process might be expedited by prior distribution of the reports to its members.

27. Mr. MOHAMED (Somalia) said that, although Somalia was not a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[14] it had taken measures to enhance the role of women in its development efforts. Somali men and women enjoyed equal rights under the law. In many parts of the world, countries had had to struggle against practices which were harmful to women. On the other hand, the values which individual countries had chosen of their own free will should be respected.

28. If the Committee was to consider the large number of reports of States parties to the Convention, it must make maximum use of its resources and organize its work efficiently. Its report (E/1987/L.20[16]) contained specific comments which were not relevant to the Convention. In particular, the experts seemed to have a stereotyped idea of the role and influence of the Catholic Church, as well as a distinct prejudice against Islamic law. In paragraph 517, which dealt with the report of Bangladesh, the Committee had stated that "new developments in the world should force a new interpretation of Islam to be made". His delegation wondered why the explanation given by experts from Bangladesh in paragraphs 562, 563 and 564 of the report had not been sufficient. If the Committee wished to learn more about Islamic Shariah, it should contact the secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

29. The Legal Counsel should determine whether or not the Convention required specialized agencies of the United Nations system to comply with decision 4 contained in paragraph 583 of the report. That decision had been based on arbitrary and inappropriate assumptions about Islamic law. He wondered how the Committee, which was the body that monitored the implementation of the Convention, could adopt decisions affecting States and organizations which were not parties to the Convention. His delegation strongly urged the Council to disregard decision 4 and appealed to the Committee to avoid taking such discriminatory decisions in future.

30. Mr. LOULICHKI (Morocco) said that the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had been established to monitor the progress made in implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[14] through the necessary legislative and normative measures. The function of reports, then, was to establish a continuous and fruitful dialogue between the Committee and States parties.

31. The report (E/1987/L.20[16]) thus reflected the desire for a dialogue and the efforts of States, in presenting their national reports, to fulfil their obligations under the Convention. However, unfortunately, the report also contained certain value judgements and unfounded conclusions concerning the application and interpretation of Islamic legal systems. His delegation took exception to the parallel drawn between Islamic law and "a large population, widespread poverty and a high level of illiteracy" (*ibid.*, para. 511) and to the passage (*ibid.*, para. 517) quoted by the representative of Somalia. It also objected to decision 4 (*ibid.*, para. 583) regarding promoting or undertaking studies on the status of women under Islamic laws and customs. Such value judgements and prejudice against Islam rendered the Committee's request for studies suspect and consequently unacceptable. The Committee could have avoided such conclusions if it had taken into account the discussion in its Working Group I, during which the suggestion of including a general evaluation paragraph on national reports had been opposed by several members.

32. His delegation expressed its outrage at the picture painted of Islam, which, far from oppressing peoples, preached universal respect for human beings and the guarantee of their rights. His delegation therefore joined the Islamic and other delegations which were offended by such assertions in calling upon the Council, the General Assembly and the Conference of States parties to ensure that the Committee reconsidered its decision and scrupulously observed its mandate.

33. While his delegation understood the Committee's concern for obtaining optimum implementation of the Convention by the States parties and consequently having access to all the relevant data, it felt that, in a matter as important as the interpretation of religion-inspired legal systems, the Committee could simply have requested a supplementary report in accordance with its practice as a monitoring organ of the Convention. Alternatively, it could have addressed a request to all Islamic States parties to the Convention, or recommended to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, that a comparative and extended study be undertaken on the influence of religion in general on the status of women. Strict observance by the Committee of its mandate was particularly important because when the Convention was adopted, a number of States, and the Islamic States in particular, had had reservations on certain of the Convention's provisions.

34. Mr. RAJAIE-KHORASSANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation found parts of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (E/1987/L.20[16]) totally unacceptable. The references to the prescriptions of Islam, which was the faith of one quarter of the world's population, had left his delegation in a state of shock and indignation, not so much at the insensitivity of the Committee's experts as at their ignorance and misconceptions about the religion about which they had so freely made pronouncements that stereotyped the role of women in Islamic countries.

35. Paragraphs 511 to 541 of the report suggested that the aim of the Committee's experts had been to put a religion on trial, rather than to discharge their mandate in line with the Committee's own decision contained in paragraph 44 of the report. Paragraphs 511, 516 and 517 afforded clear examples of the inappropriate manner in which the experts had addressed the issue. Moreover, judging from paragraph 517, some members of the Committee had clearly exceeded their terms of reference: the interpretation of Islam was not a task for diplomats, nor was it appropriate for the United Nations or even the Governments of the Islamic countries. Rather, Islamic scholars were involved in the day-to-day application of the fundamental principles of Islamic Shariah to newly-developing social, economic and political conditions. Moreover, the study, outlined in paragraph 583 of the report, was apparently intended to encompass all Islamic countries, many of which were not signatories to the Convention. However, the Com-

mittee was competent to make recommendations solely with regard to the reports of States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.[14]

36. Islam's emphasis on respect for women was a matter of pride for all Muslims. The progressive and humanitarian manner in which Islam had addressed the role of men and women and their interrelationships in society was a subject on which Muslim scholars had always made great efforts to communicate to people all over the world. The experts on the Committee should consult the works of such scholars rather than depending on the often sensational accounts in the press.

37. His delegation was indignant that a body of less than universal membership such as CEDAW should take it upon itself superciliously to pass judgement on so widely practised a religion and attempt to impose its own ill-conceived views on Islamic countries. Continuation of such practices by the United Nations and its agencies would certainly influence the decision of the legal scholars in Iran and in many other Muslim countries who were studying the Convention and similar instruments.

38. Mr. AL-HAGRI (Oman) said that Islam respected and cherished women as mothers, daughters and sisters. Women formed the nucleus of the family and made up half of mankind. In Oman, women enjoyed free education at all levels, as well as free health care and good employment opportunities. Many women held high posts in public office and in business, particularly in the development field, serving shoulder to shoulder with men. They were full participants in building Oman's future.

39. Since the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[14] set out to study the status of women in general, there seemed little point in singling out women under Islamic laws and customs, as was done in paragraph 583 of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/1987/L.20[16]). Islamic Shariah had eliminated all injustice against women more than 1,400 years ago and was a shield protecting the rights of women. If a study were to be made of the status of women, it should be a thorough-going and general one, covering all women throughout the world. Singling out one group could only impede implementation of the Convention, and should be avoided in the Committee's next report.

40. The Committee appeared to have deviated from the purposes for which it had been set up and to have become a critic of divine legislation, particularly Shariah, implying, *inter alia*, in paragraph 517 of its report, that the current interpretation of Islam was not to its liking, and in paragraph 511, that Islam was one of the problems besetting Bangladesh. The task of the Committee, which as the representative of the Secretary-General had indicated in her statement at the sixth session of the Committee was a difficult one, could be facilitated if such unjustifiable errors in the Committee's approach were avoided.

41. Mr. DIRAR (Sudan) stressed the central role of women in Sudanese society, especially since independence. Whereas before independence there had been virtually no women in higher education, they now made up 50 to 60 per cent of the students in some seats of learning, and more in certain fields. The future of women was linked to the future of the nation and its self-reliance.

42. His delegation was concerned by several parts of the report (E/1987/L.20[16]). Paragraph 511 was without foundation and seriously prejudged Islam and Shariah. His delegation resented the biased stance taken against one religion and published in an official United Nations document. The reference to Islam in that regard had clear economic, social and cultural implications. It ignored the economic and social options of Member States, and it was not in the Committee's interest to engage in such a practice. Islamic law was an international system that had its place among other recognized legal systems. There was no justification for singling out Islam for condemnation in that way, especially as the Committee had never requested a comparative study between the legal systems of the world in any field.

43. Paragraph 513 of the report, in which the Committee made pronouncements outside its field of competence, constituted an alarming example of interference in the sovereignty and internal affairs of a State Member of the United Nations. Paragraphs 511 to 517 contained overt and covert criticisms of Islam that were reflected in paragraph 583, in which the Committee again exceeded its competence. Islam was receptive to new knowledge, but the studies requested in that paragraph were intended to create false impressions about Islam and perpetuate the misunderstandings resulting from the bias of unscientific orientalists who had invoked racism to support colonial domination. He drew attention to article 21, paragraph 1, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[14] and noted that the Committee had clearly ignored the warning of the several experts referred to in paragraph 58 of its report. He therefore requested the Council to correct the defects in the report.

44. Miss DIÉGUEZ-ARMAS (Observer for Mexico) said that the increasing number of ratifications and accessions to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[14] showed that most countries possessed the political will to guarantee women and men equal status before the law. She therefore supported the recommendation made by CEDAW to States parties that they should reconsider their reservations with a view to withdrawing them.

45. The current backlog of reports submitted to CEDAW for consideration would become heavier when the Committee began its consideration of second periodic reports at its seventh session. Her delegation consequently supported the Committee's request for an additional eight meetings in 1988 (E/1987/L.20,[16] para. 580), and urged the Council to agree to it, bearing in mind the effective work done by CEDAW on behalf of women, as reflected in the fact that several countries had amended their legislation to bring it into line with the Convention. It should also be recalled that the Committee had sought to streamline its work. Finally, CEDAW was at a disadvantage as compared with other committees that considered human rights questions, which generally held three-week sessions to consider reports from Governments. The General Assembly would have to rectify that situation by providing CEDAW with the resources and services it needed to carry out its task, not only in 1988 but in the years to come.

46. Mr. SIDDIKY (Bangladesh) said that his delegation had taken the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/1987/L.20[16]) very seriously, and drew the Council's attention to the summary records of the Committee, contained in documents CEDAW/C/SR.96, 97 and 98, which described the measures his country had taken in relation to women. Article 17, paragraph 1 and article 21, paragraph 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[14] made it clear that the framers had intentionally used very specific and careful wording to prevent the Convention from being used to discuss anything and everything. He therefore urged the greatest caution in using the Convention as a pretext for doctrinaire attacks on Islam. Furthermore, the Committee created by the Convention had a purely advisory role. Its authority was only to provide recommendations on the basis of reports submitted. The Committee not only seemed to forget that, but it also created false impressions by using words such as "surprise" and "astonishment". It was inquisitorial in tone and reflected the animosity of experts who chose to criticize a legal system without trying to understand it. The Committee had chosen to ignore article 21, paragraph 1, of the Convention and rule 42 of its rules of procedure. Any disputes concerning interpretation of the articles of the Convention must be settled in the proper manner and not arbitrarily, as the Committee had sought to do.

47. Methods and guidelines for the submission reports were very important. The initial report of a country was the basis on which subsequent progress could be judged in future reports. The Committee should note progress without making value judgements or interfering in a country's internal affairs. The guidelines in annex IV of the report were confused and could result in very bulky reports. They must be made more specific because as they stood they laid down vague requirements for fulfilment by States with different objective conditions and resources. Paragraph 50 of the report was unacceptable in that connection, and the discussion reflected in paragraphs 186 and 187 probably could have been avoided had the Committee followed its own rules of procedure.

48. Turning to paragraph 44 of the report, he said that the general comments referred to had never appeared and that the reference to discouraging comments showed a condescending attitude. Discourteous comments, of course, were unacceptable. Section V of the report was unacceptable because it violated article 21, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

49. Lastly, the eight additional meetings requested by the Committee to hear reports were unnecessary. A simpler solution would be for it to break up into a number of smaller groups to consider reports, thereby enabling it to tackle a larger load.

50. Miss AL-MULLA (Observer for Kuwait), speaking on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, said that her delegation deplored the contents of certain paragraphs of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/1987/L.20[16]). Members of the Committee had reached superficial and erroneous conclusions on the subject of Islam and Muslim law. Paragraph 511 of the report suggested that Islam should be placed on the same level as the obvious problems of Bangladesh, namely, a large population, widespread poverty and a high level of illiteracy. Such remarks constituted a clear insult to Islam and the Muslim community. Despite the suggestion in paragraph 517 that modern developments required a new interpretation of Islam, no such new interpretation was necessary. Islam had bestowed many rights on women and had provided them with equality in numerous spheres. Kuwait, on behalf of the Islamic States, rejected the report of the Committee and also categorically rejected the decision that a study should be undertaken on the status of women under Islamic laws. Such a decision would constitute a dangerous precedent. In conclusion, her delegation expressed its gratitude to the sponsors of draft resolution E/1987/L.27 for their understanding of the position of the Islamic States and hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

51. Mr. TOBAR-ZALDUMBIDE (Observer for Ecuador) appealed to the international community to assist his Government in its efforts to repair the damage caused as a result of the earthquake that had devastated Ecuador in March 1987.

52. The PRESIDENT said that Ecuador's appeal would be taken up by the First (Economic) Committee of the Council under item 16 of the agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.

12th meeting

Tuesday, 19 May 1987, at 10.55 a.m.

President: Mr. Eugeniusz NOWORYTA (Poland)

E/1987/SR.12

AGENDA ITEM 4

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (*continued*) (E/1987/L.20, E/1987/L.27)

1. Mr. AL-SUDAIRY (Observer for Saudi Arabia) said that the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had gone beyond its mandate in considering the situation of women under a particular religion. The recommendation calling for a study of women under Islam must be rejected.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Non-governmental organizations

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (E/1987/32)

2. Mr. KABANDA (Rwanda), speaking in his capacity as Chairman of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, introduced the Committee's report (E/1987/32). Advance approval of the provisional agenda for the Committee's 1989 session would enable the Secretariat and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to prepare documents and quadrennial reports in due course, and would provide additional time to classify applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification. He drew attention to the important role played by NGOs in promoting development, economic and social progress and human rights.

3. Mr. SOTO-GARCÍA (Observer for Cuba) said that Cuban NGOs enjoyed the respect and support of all his countrymen and had made an outstanding contribution to numerous economic and social areas of Cuban society. International NGOs had likewise co-operated selflessly to address such issues as economic backwardness, natural disasters, ignorance, injustice, environmental conservation, peace and disarmament. Nevertheless, considerable work had yet to be done, particularly in developing countries.

4. International non-governmental organizations having their headquarters in Western developed countries had often been ineffective in developing countries without the assistance of local NGOs having fewer resources but more experience. Nevertheless, the participation of NGOs from countries of the so-called third world in the United Nations system was minimal. A flexible policy was imperative to provide preferential admission of NGOs from such countries. Moreover, the system of informing non-governmental organizations and strengthening their co-ordination must be improved.

5. His delegation shared the Committee's appreciation of the efficient, well-balanced and impartial work carried out by the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit, and hoped that its functions would be maintained.

6. Mr. LINDHOLM (Observer for Sweden) said that the modalities for the participation of NGOs in the work of the United Nations should be reviewed taking into account the effectiveness of their contribution to the work of the Council, to other relevant United Nations bodies and to the *ad hoc* conferences to which they were invited. It was important to find a suitable way to give the necessary resources to the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit. High-level officials had expressed interest in increasing the involvement of NGOs in such matters as policy development and implementation of joint programmes.

7. Meetings between the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council were useful and could be of great value in the future for the organizations themselves and for the United Nations and its Member States.

8. Mr. KHODAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the participation, in all aspects of international co-operation, of outstanding scientists, cultural workers and representatives of the most diverse sectors of the population who were active in non-governmental organizations would promote mutual understanding among peoples and lead to new approaches and methods for solving the problems of the modern world. According to a statistical survey by the Secretariat (E/C.2/1987/CRP.2), one third of the NGOs in categories I and II dealt with the issues of peace and disarmament, and more than half of them were concerned with social and economic development and human rights. NGOs played an important role in efforts to combat *apartheid*, racism, discrimination and inequality; the Soviet Union welcomed their participation in the work of such functional commissions of the Council as the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women, and considered that they could make a more constructive contribution to the work of the Council itself.

9. The Soviet Union welcomed the decisions of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to grant consultative status to a number of NGOs, and called upon the members of the Council to adopt those decisions. His delegation commended the decision to renew daily consultations between NGOs and the Committee.

10. The geographical representation of NGOs in consultative status with the Council should be broadened. Only 16 to 18 per cent of those NGOs had their headquarters in the countries of Latin America, Asia and Africa, and only 1 per cent had headquarters in the socialist countries. In its future work, the Committee should endeavour to grant the requests of NGOs from those countries.

11. The Committee should obtain information on the activities to be undertaken by NGOs to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

12. The Committee's latest session had been conducted in a business-like and constructive atmosphere, and the Committee had been able to consider not only all applications for consultative status but also the quadrennial reports on activities of NGOs. That indicated that the Committee's methods of work, in particular the adoption of decisions by consensus, were adequate for the tasks it had before it.

13. Mrs. ALVAREZ (France) praised the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations for its efficiency, openness and conciliatory spirit and congratulated it on the progress achieved at its last session, when the Committee's heavy agenda had been expeditiously dealt with in 10 days of effective work and much commendable work had been accomplished, including the approval of draft decisions I and II, which the Committee, in turn, recommended for adoption by the Council in paragraph 1 of the report under consideration (E/1987/32).

14. However, her delegation regretted the fact that some NGOs doing useful work in the field of human rights had not had their requests for consultative status granted. In that connection, the French delegation to the Committee had subscribed to a declaration made on behalf of several countries, praising the important work of NGOs in the human rights field and pointing out that respect for human rights was one of the responsibilities of the United Nations and that efforts to bring about observance of internationally recognized standards in that field could not be considered to be interference in the internal affairs of States. Paragraph 17 of the provisions adopted by the Council in its resolution 1296 supported that position.

15. It was disappointing that an agreement had not been reached regarding the number and nature of the NGOs to which consultative status should be granted, in view of the growing number of requests and the nature of the Council's work. Her delegation hoped that the question would be re-examined at the Committee's 1989 session.

16. As to the quadrennial reports of NGOs, her delegation queried the usefulness of some such reports for the Committee's work. NGOs might be requested to submit to the Committee the full report of their activities and finances that every association had to submit yearly to its statutory bodies.

17. Her delegation whole-heartedly endorsed the conclusions set out in paragraph 58 of the Committee's report (E/1987/32), which reflected the directives contained in recommendation 8 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations (A/41/49). The Committee thus proved that it was possible to work effectively within the limits of its structure and allotted financial resources and that its activities did not overlap with those of any other body in the system.

18. The PRESIDENT suggested that, in the opening paragraph of draft decision I of the Committee, entitled "Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations", the words "having considered the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations" should be inserted after the words "the Economic and Social Council".

19. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft decision I, as orally amended.

It was so decided (decision 1987/113).

20. The PRESIDENT then drew the Council's attention to draft decision II, entitled "Provisional agenda and documentation for the session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to be held in 1989".

21. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to approve the provisional agenda and documentation for the 1989 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

It was so decided (decision 1987/114).

22. The PRESIDENT said that, in connection with paragraph 2 (*a*) of the report (E/1987/32), the Secretariat had taken note of the request made by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations concerning the scheduling of future sessions of the Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 8

United Nations University (*concluded*)* (E/1987/26)

23. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council adopt a draft decision along the following lines: "The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Council of the United Nations University (E/1987/26)".

24. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision.

It was so decided (decision 1987/115).

AGENDA ITEM 3

In-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields

ORAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE IN-DEPTH STUDY OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERGOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS

25. Mr. BADAWI (Egypt), Vice-President of the Council and Chairman of the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields, said that at its first two sessions, which could be considered the preparatory phase in the study of a complex subject, the Special Commission had considered various proposals regarding documentation needed and the general approaches to be taken. The Secretariat had been requested to prepare background papers on the current structure of intergovernmental bodies in the economic and social fields and to provide information on the related Secretariat structures. In addition to documentation received in response to that request, the Commission also considered it important to receive information on the main resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council relating to the functions of intergovernmental ma-

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* Resumed from the 10th meeting.

chinery in the economic and social sectors, particularly General Assembly resolution 32/197, as well as various external United Nations evaluations of the functioning of its structure. UNITAR had offered to provide an analytical study summarizing the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations made to date and highlighting any themes or trends evident in the evaluations. The study was expected to be completed by mid-July 1987.

26. The Special Commission's third session had launched the first stage of substantive work. In accordance with the agreement to proceed from the general to the specific, the Commission had exchanged views, on a preliminary and experimental basis, on both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. In broad terms, there had been a reaffirmation of the principle that the General Assembly should function as the principal forum for policy-making and for the establishment of overall strategies and priorities of the system as a whole in respect of international co-operation in the economic, social and related fields, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. It had also been reconfirmed that the Council should monitor and evaluate implementation of the strategies, policies and priorities thus established by the Assembly, ensure the overall co-ordination of the relevant activities and continue to assist in the preparation of the work of the General Assembly in those fields. The Commission would need to elaborate, at a later stage, the necessary modalities for helping the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to fulfil those responsibilities under the Charter to the maximum.

27. The Secretariat had been requested to provide supplementary information on each intergovernmental body and its Secretariat support structure. The Commission had agreed at its first session on an integrated approach covering both the functional and thematic approaches, and the Secretariat was still in the process of producing documents on subjects dealt with in the economic and social sectors along those lines. The Commission had agreed at its second session to recommend to the Council that the fourth session be held from 1 to 4 September 1987. An informal exchange of views on the substantive issues would have been desirable between the third and fourth sessions of the Commission; however, in view of the heavy schedule of meetings for that period, such consultations would be difficult. Nevertheless, should the members of the Commission feel that it was possible at any time, he would convene a meeting or meetings for that purpose.

28. Regarding future sessions of the Commission, in accordance with subparagraphs (*h*), (*k*) and (*l*) of Council decision 1987/112, the Council was requested to make the necessary arrangements to provide conference services and facilities for about 50 working days, to be available for the Special Commission in 1988.

29. Mr. NORRIS (United States of America) said that the Special Commission, to whose work his delegation attached great importance, had been entrusted with a huge and complex task. It was therefore justifiable—even advisable—to spend some time at the outset determining the best way to approach it. The Commission had devoted two full sessions to those procedural issues and had reached broad agreement on the type of documentation required and the various methods for analysing the information provided. In order to prove that the lengthy procedural debate had been time well spent, rapid progress should be made in dealing with the substance at hand.

30. The discussions on the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council had produced a number of concrete proposals and substantive ideas on how to improve the work of those two forums and how to co-ordinate it better. His delegation had compiled a listing of proposals made before the Special Commission regarding those two bodies and offered to make it available to any delegation that wanted it.

31. His delegation hoped that, at the September session of the Commission, a review would rapidly be undertaken of the various sub-bodies of the Council.

32. Mr. JØNCK (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that the oral report of the Chairman of the Special Commission provided a basis on which the Council could assess the Commission's progress and provide guidance for its future work.

33. Through the report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations (the Group of 18), the establishment of the Special Commission and the reform work entrusted to the Secretary-General, the United Nations and its Member States had initiated a comprehensive and long-term process of reform, which required time and a great deal of preparation, as well as readiness for compromise and political courage to accomplish what had been set out in General Assembly resolution 41/213.

34. The Commission's two sessions spent on procedural questions had not resulted in agreement on a specific work programme and methodology. Although the so-called integrated approach was a useful guideline, its application needed further elaboration. Discussion of the role of the General Assembly and the Council had remained on a general and abstract level, and there had been a certain tendency to go over old, familiar ground. While conceding that a number of important questions had been raised, the Nordic countries felt that a process where the States members sounded out each others' intentions and objectives and reflected on their own objectives was probably needed. It would have been highly ambitious to expect the diverging views on the role and efficiency of the United Nations to be overcome speedily. On the other hand, divergent policy views and other overall political considerations concerning the state of affairs at the United Nations should not delay or dominate the work of the Special Commission.

35. There were evidently some institutional problems in the United Nations system in the economic and social fields, but that should not mean that interpretations of the Charter should be made the focus of the study. It might be useful to discuss how the General Assembly and the Council could best complement each other, and how the United Nations and its organs could improve their dialogue with the specialized agencies. The Nordic countries strongly recommended that a pragmatic approach be pursued in the future.

36. The mandate envisaged in recommendation 8 of the report of the Group of 18 (A/41/49) and endorsed by the General Assembly was highly pragmatic, reflecting the basic view that practical steps to improve the functioning and efficiency of the United Nations would form the basis of efforts to promote the role of the

United Nations and to rebuild confidence in international economic discussions and multilateral co-operation.

37. Practical proposals submitted at the third session of the Special Commission included further enhancing biennialization, consolidating general debates and reports of a similar character, working on the basis of dynamic, rather than static, agendas, avoiding repetitive debates and resolutions, focusing more on co-ordination in the Council and developing criteria for the establishment and duration of subsidiary bodies. The report of the Secretary-General on co-ordination, which the Council would have before it at its second regular session,[21] would also undoubtedly contain some interesting proposals which would merit further consideration.

38. It must be recognized that the United Nations was currently unable to serve its Member States as well as it ought, partly because States often had different interests which were difficult to reconcile, but also because of the unplanned growth of the Organization. In a recent statement to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, the Secretary-General had suggested three criteria which should guide the Organization: the importance of an objective to Member States; the Organization's capacity to achieve that objective; and the effectiveness and usefulness of the results. While the United Nations had always taken the first criterion into account, the other two had been underemphasized. It should also be borne in mind that some areas of endeavour were more suited to United Nations involvement than others.

39. The continued expansion of United Nations programmes had been accompanied by a parallel growth in intergovernmental machinery, as demonstrated by the plethora of supervisory and co-ordinating bodies established in the economic and social fields. At the same time, attendance at many meetings was very low and the participation of experts in some expert bodies had decreased. The daily schedule of meetings shown in the *Journal* was often so heavy that it was impossible for many countries to be adequately represented at all the meetings on a given day, which led him to question whether all those meetings were indispensable. The overwhelming number of activities in specific areas, such as science and technology, gave rise to similar questions. The Nordic countries did not consider the study to be a budget-cutting exercise. However, they believed that an efficient use of resources was both a prerequisite for continued trust in the Organization as well as an objective pursued by all Member States.

40. The withholding and delayed payment of assessed contributions had provoked a financial crisis in the United Nations, reflecting a fundamental political crisis within the Organization: States lacked a common conception of what the United Nations should or could do for them. The Council should therefore endeavour to reach a common understanding of the long-term objectives and tasks of the United Nations in the economic and social fields. That required the Council to take immediate steps to reverse the crisis of confidence in the Organization's ability to deal effectively with the issues entrusted to it.

41. The report of the Group of 18 and the consensus adoption of General Assembly resolution 41/213 were indicative of the determination of Member States to reform and improve the Organization. The Special Commission must show the same kind of determination, and should use the time available before its September session to prepare for a substantive discussion of the main subsidiary machinery. Discussions during the regular sessions of the Council could facilitate discussions at the next session of the Special Commission, but possibilities for informal discussions between delegations and groups of countries should also be explored.

42. Mr. BARNETT (Jamaica) said that the recommendations or proposals for action to be formulated by the Special Commission should reflect the interdependence among nations and the interrelationship among the issues considered within the United Nations system. That would enable States Members to assist the Organization in grappling with increasingly complex economic and social issues.

43. The Special Commission should reaffirm the authority and clarify the respective responsibilities of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Obviously, there could be no derogation from the authority of the Assembly or from the rights of Member States to have any matter discussed there. The Special Commission should also consider practical ways to reinforce the functions of the Assembly and the Council, particularly with regard to policy-making and relations with other parts of the United Nations system.

44. The central role of the Council in formulating policy, monitoring and assessing the implementation of established priorities and co-ordinating activities in the economic and social fields should be strengthened. The detailed examination of all the subsidiary bodies which reported to the Council would need to be completed before practical proposals on the functioning of the Council could be made. The Special Commission must consider practical measures to enable the Council to reflect the interrelationship between economic and social issues. The Commission should also consider the proposals contained in some of the documentation currently being examined by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, such as document E/AC.51/1987/L.3.

45. The Special Commission's adoption of a thematic and functional approach in its method of work would facilitate its examination of the subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly and the Council in the economic and social fields. In considering those bodies in relation to their functions as defined in their mandates, the Special Commission would be able to pinpoint aspects or procedures which could be improved and made more effective.

46. The Secretary-General was proceeding with a number of structural changes within the Secretariat. While Jamaica did not question the Secretary-General's authority and competence in that area, it hoped that the Special Commission would be able to review those changes in the light of its own recommendations.

47. Mr. DE CLERCK (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Community, said that the task of restoring confidence in the United Nations was a significant one, and the Twelve were

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[21] E/1987/68-A/42/232.

therefore concerned at the slow pace at which the work of the Special Commission was proceeding.

48. He welcomed the useful debate which had taken place at the third session of the Special Commission on the pivotal role of the Council as spelt out in the Charter. The proposals which had been put forward would enable both the General Assembly and the Council to play their own distinct roles more effectively. That discussion should be continued, in keeping with the agreement reached by the Commission on the need for an integrated approach. The Commission should also address the inseparability of the roles of the General Assembly and the Council from those of their principal subsidiary organs.

49. If the Commission's recent debate had been at all unproductive, it was largely because delegations were uncertain until the last minute as to the topic of discussion. In the future, the subject and structure of the debate should be agreed upon in advance. To that end, informal contacts must be maintained among delegations and groups until the Commission met in September 1987. The second regular session of the Council might provide an occasion for such contacts. The Chairman and other members of the Bureau of the Special Commission should also be involved in the organization of such informal encounters. The Twelve considered it important that discussions should be structured on the basis of terms of reference contained in recommendation 8 contained in the report of the Group of 18 (A/41/49).

50. During its third session, the Special Commission had met as an informal group of the whole, an arrangement which facilitated discussion. Yet, while proposals had been made by delegations and objections raised, there was no record of the debate to provide a basis for future work. He urged the Special Commission and its Bureau to consider that point, and suggested that it would be useful to have a small group from within the Secretariat assigned to the Commission as support staff.

51. Mr. WANG Baoliu (China) said his delegation wished to put forward a number of suggestions aimed at expediting the work of the Special Commission. The system of United Nations organizations and support structures in the economic and social fields was quite complex, and any reforms would have wide-ranging effects for the Secretariat and Member States. It was therefore important that a common understanding of the purpose of the Special Commission's study should emerge. While there was a need for streamlining, as indicated in the report of the Group of 18 (A/41/49), any changes to be made must be a means to reform rather than an end in themselves.

52. During the 1980s, the development process had suffered many setbacks, and the outlook for the future was not bright. Consequently, the deliberations of the Special Commission should lead to structural reforms that would help solve current economic and social problems and address future challenges. It was particularly important that the Organization's role as a forum for achieving consensus on international economic co-operation for development should be enhanced, as should its ability to implement its resolutions. Only then could the United Nations meet the expectations of its Member States, especially the developing countries.

53. The deliberations of the Special Commission should be practical and action-oriented. At its third session, the Commission had spent much time discussing provisions of the Charter and other texts. While such a review was necessary, it must be recalled that those provisions had not been fully or effectively implemented over the years. The Special Commission should therefore seek to ensure that such implementation occurred, with emphasis placed on enhancing the decision-making role of the General Assembly and the co-ordinating role of the Economic and Social Council. The Council's relationship with its subsidiary organs and the specialized agencies must also be addressed.

54. The Special Commission must deal adequately with the relationship between the restructuring of the Secretariat undertaken by the Secretary-General, upon instructions from the General Assembly, and the reforms that the Commission was mandated to explore. Exchanges of information and consultations must take place between the Secretary-General and the Special Commission to consider those areas where their responsibilities coincided, and a good working relationship between the two parties should be established.

55. Finally, the establishment of a detailed timetable for the work of the Special Commission would enable the Secretariat to make timely arrangements for the provision of the necessary services and facilities.

56. Mr. ZVEZDIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking also on behalf of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic and Poland, said that the exchange of views in the Special Commission on the activities of the General Assembly and the Council should bring to light common elements in countries' positions regarding the policy objectives and scope of the study, which would facilitate the implementation of Assembly resolution 41/213.

57. In order to enhance the effectiveness of the General Assembly and of the Council in the social and economic fields, the work of those two bodies must be co-ordinated. The adoption of a biennial programme of work by the Second Committee and the Council helped to avoid duplication of work. However, the division of work was still largely a matter of a purely technical division of items. If all the economic bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations system reported to the Council, its co-ordinating role would be enhanced, and the Second Committee, spared the task of a second consideration of reports, would be able to focus on major international economic problems and their solution.

58. At the third session of the Special Commission, the Chairman of the Group of 77 had stressed the importance of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order[22] and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.[23] The Soviet Union supported the position of the Group of 77 on the need to strengthen the role of the General Assembly as the principal forum within the United Nations for adopting political decisions on economic and social problems and formulating comprehensive strategies,

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[22] General Assembly resolution 3201 (S-VI).

[23] General Assembly resolution 3281 (XXIX).

policies and priorities in the field of international co-operation.

59. Mr. OTOBO (Nigeria) said that the discussions of substantive issues begun during the third session of the Special Commission had been productive, and he welcomed the congruence of views on the types of reform needed in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. All countries had a stake in the work of the Special Commission and the survival of the United Nations. To ensure the smooth continuation of the Commission's work, delegations must avoid lengthy debates in the subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly and the Council which were covered by the Special Commission's study, since such reforms would be taken up by the Commission itself at a later date. It was particularly important that proposals for reform should not be negotiated in those bodies.

60. In addition, delegations should refrain from advancing proposals for reforms in subsidiary bodies, which might conflict with or undermine the mandate of the Special Commission. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the announcement by the representative of the United States of America the previous day, at the 7th meeting of the First (Economic) Committee, of its decision to withdraw draft resolution E/1987/L.11 (see 4th meeting, para. 28), in which biennialization of meetings of the Commission on Transnational Corporations had been urged. The Special Commission would be seized of that matter at a later date. It was to be hoped that that significant gesture would be emulated by other delegations.

61. He welcomed the suggestion to hold consultations among delegations between sessions of the Special Commission, provided that such consultations were scheduled at a place and time convenient to all. However, he questioned the feasibility of holding such consultations at Geneva in conjunction with the Council's second regular session of 1987. With regard to the Commission's work at its fourth session, he proposed that one or two days should be devoted to discussing and agreeing on an outline of proposed reforms for the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council before other substantive matters were taken up.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

13th meeting

Wednesday, 20 May 1987, at 3.25 p.m.

President: Mr. Eugeniusz NOWORYTA (Poland)

E/1987/SR.13

AGENDA ITEM 3

In-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields (*continued*)

1. Mr. LONERGAN (Canada) said that the purpose of the exercise of the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields was to devise practical ways of addressing priorities and of redirecting the limited resources available to the most crucial activities. The consensus shared by Council members regarding the in-depth study was a reason to be optimistic.

2. The Council had a twofold purpose: to provide a unique forum in which to discuss the current economic and social situation; and to ensure that the United Nations system made its full contribution to the resolution of major problems. He suggested that Council members should assist the Special Commission by submitting guidelines and suggestions as to what the Council expected of the United Nations system and the subsidiary intergovernmental bodies, and what information it required in order to play its role effectively.

3. With regard to the substance of its work, the Council might consider questions according to subjects, sectors and geographical regions. Its agenda might thus be organized along four main themes: (1) review of and debate on a limited number of socio-economic issues considered by the Member States to be the most crucial; (2) review of the activities of the United Nations system on the basis of reports prepared by intergovernmental bodies given special responsibility for examining the activities in a particular sector or region; (3) identification of desirable adjustments to United Nations activities in the light of the review of the most crucial issues, the result of which would be either guidelines for the intergovernmental bodies or recommendations for the General Assembly; (4) recommendation to the General Assembly with respect to additional actions to be taken by Member States, regional groups of Member States or non-United Nations multilateral institutions regarding the most crucial economic and social issues.

4. Mr. ANDRADE DÍAZ-DURÁN (Observer for Guatemala), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the in-depth study would proceed more quickly if all groups responded to the invitation of the Group of 77 to comment on its proposals. Ongoing communication, including informal consultations, was essential for avoiding misunderstandings and reaching a consensus. The Group of 77 set store by communication between the Bureau of the Council and the Secretariat.

5. The Group would continue to hold preparatory meetings for the Special Commission's fourth session. He hoped that the other groups and delegations would do likewise, in the light of the deadline set by the General Assembly for the completion of the Commission's work.

6. The co-operation of the Secretariat was indispensable for providing relevant information in due time. He regretted that it had distributed only a part of the requested documentation prior to the third session of the Special Commission.

7. The purpose of the exercise in which the Special Commission was engaged was not to eliminate bodies and reduce their functions but rather to increase the efficiency of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields with a view to achieving a new international economic order based on equity and justice.

8. Mr. MOHIUDDIN (Bangladesh) supported the statement made by the previous speaker. The in-depth study should lead to clear recommendations as to how the intergovernmental bodies and support structures could more efficiently meet development needs. His delegation was examining a number of proposals concerning the approach to be used in the study of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. It welcomed the suggestion that there should be an informal exchange of views on substantive issues prior to the fourth session. Bangladesh supported the request made at the 12th meeting by the Chairman of the Special Commission regarding conference services and facilities.

9. The work of the Special Commission would be facilitated by drawing up a detailed programme of work. Moreover, all documentation, particularly proposals for reform, should be made available to the Commission in due course.

10. Mr. AMORIN (Observer for Uruguay) supported the statement made by the representative of Guatemala on behalf of the Group of 77. The Special Commission's agreement to proceed from the general to the specific would enable it to avoid a study of each of the respective bodies in isolation. He supported the suggestion made by Nigeria at the 12th meeting to complete the study on the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council before reviewing the operation of the subsidiary bodies.

11. Greater co-ordination was necessary between the Secretary-General and the Special Commission regarding reforms made by the Secretariat in the support structures of the subsidiary bodies in the economic and social fields.

12. It was his understanding that, during intersessional informal meetings, the work of the Special Commission should be based on the participation of all the Member States, individually or through group spokesmen. He supported the suggestion of the Chairman of the Special Commission (12th meeting) regarding Secretariat support and conference services.

13. Mr. TANIGUCHI (Japan) said that his delegation, while not entirely satisfied with the deliberations of the Special Commission, was glad that the Commission had initiated its substantive discussions. The momentum thus gained should be maintained by means of informal consultations.

14. With regard to the substantive aspects, comparative study of the agendas of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly and the agenda of the Council revealed that some topics were approached in the same manner and that debates were somewhat repetitive. There were no precise principles governing the manner in which tasks were distributed between the Assembly and the Council and their subsidiary bodies. An in-depth study should be conducted, in light of the terms of reference of the two bodies as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, with a view to establishing rational principles for distributing and co-ordinating work between them. Deliberations should focus on paragraphs 3 (*a*), 3 (*c*), 3 (*e*) and 3 (*f*) of recommendation 8 of the report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations (A/41/49). There was a clear need to improve co-ordination so that economic and social issues could be dealt with more comprehensively.

15. Mr. LICHTINGER (Observer for Mexico) endorsed the statement made by the representative of Guatemala on behalf of the Group of 77, adding that his delegation attached great importance to the work of the Special Commission. It was clear that not all delegations meant the same when they said that United Nations activities in the economic and social area must become more responsive to the needs of Member States. The majority, including his own country, meant that the United Nations should resolve the major problems of economic and social development on a fair and equitable basis; others, however, meant that everything should continue as before, but that less should be done and at less cost. If the Special Commission was to make the best use of its time it was essential that all delegations should have the same interpretation. It was indeed necessary to make sure that resources were used effectively, but it was also necessary to simplify the institutional and administrative procedures. The study would be acceptable to all delegations only if both aspects were attended to. The Special Commission was right to proceed cautiously, and he endorsed the approach it had adopted.

16. His delegation supported the very practical statement made by the Nordic countries (12th meeting). At the same time, he stressed the need to keep clearly in mind the interdependence of economic and social problems. The United Nations system was a whole, and changes in one area would necessarily affect the entire system. Accordingly, the implications of every suggestion — even the most practical — must be fully weighed. Discussions should become more concrete and a balance should be found between evaluation of the deficiencies of various organs and concrete proposals to correct those deficiencies. Recommendations must not be contradictory or overlap with one another and the restructuring exercise must be beneficial to all Member States.

17. He agreed with other delegations that the Secretariat must provide strong support for the work of the Special Commission. He was also convinced of the need to evaluate the efficiency of the United Nations work in the economic and social field in the light of new problems emerging in the developing world.

AGENDA ITEM 9

Transport of dangerous goods (E/1987/37)

18. Mr. NORRIS (United States of America) said that the United States was currently bringing its regulations concerning the transport of dangerous goods into line with the recommendations of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. His delegation fully agreed that high priority should be accorded to the Committee's work, and it was seriously concerned at the announced cuts in staff and in the number of meetings of that Committee. Such cuts might

seriously undermine the Committee's success in achieving standardized rules for the transport of dangerous goods. If the experts were forced to rely increasingly on informal working groups, the meetings of which representatives from the developing countries could not attend, exports from developing countries would fall victim to non-tariff barriers erected in the name of safety. His delegation strongly urged the Secretary-General and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) to ensure that adequate support and meeting facilities were made available to that important body.

19. Mr. FIELD (United Kingdom) noted with interest that countries and the specialized agencies made use of the Committee's work in formulating international regulations on the transport of dangerous goods and said that it would be to the advantage of all Member States to support the work of the Committee of Experts. He drew attention to decision D (42) adopted by ECE requesting the Executive Secretary of the Commission to draw the attention of the Council to the urgent need to provide funding for the adequate servicing of the Committee and expressed the hope that Council resolutions 1985/9 and 1986/66 would be implemented without further delay.

20. His delegation also attached priority to the publication of the recommendations of the Committee of Experts and felt that they should be published during the current year. It would also support widening the decision-making base of the Committee and would welcome broader geographical representation in that body.

21. Mr. HANTKE (Federal Republic of Germany) said that he welcomed the changes in respect of the status of experts and the participants of observer delegations that had been made as a result of Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/66. The work of the Committee of Experts could be very important to those developing countries that were becoming industrialized because it could provide them with know-how in the transport of dangerous goods. The Secretary-General should maintain the Committee's work programme at the requisite level by seeing to the implementation of that resolution and by providing the necessary staff so that the Committee's recommendations could be published in all the official languages in 1987. He wondered whether any progress had been made in the implementation of that resolution.

22. Mr. KHALIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation supported the work of the Committee of Experts, particularly because of the extremely important work that body was doing on the classification of substances. The Committee's recommendations were very important for environmental reasons and should be implemented. Economic and Social Council resolutions 1983/7, 1985/9 and 1986/66 were very important in that connection.

23. Mr. STILLMAN (Economic Commission for Europe), reporting on the implementation of Council resolution 1986/66, pointed out that the Netherlands and Sweden had become full members of the Committee of Experts and that there had been increased participation of countries outside Europe, notably Australia, Brazil and China.

24. He pointed out that, as a result of redeployment, the staff of the unit servicing the Committee of Experts had been cut from two to one and that the remaining staff member was approaching retirement age. While ECE would be able to continue servicing the Committee in the immediate future, by redeploying existing staff and temporarily engaging an outside consultant, there was an urgent need to find a more permanent solution.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.

14th meeting

Tuesday, 26 May 1987, at 10.55 a.m.

President: Mr. Eugeniusz NOWORYTA (Poland)

E/1987/SR.14

AGENDA ITEM 2

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (*concluded*)* (E/1987/L.23)

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION (E/1987/L.23)

1. The PRESIDENT said, at the request of the sponsors of draft resolution E/1987/L.23, that the phrase "in complying with the above request" should be deleted from paragraph 4. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council decided to adopt the draft resolution, as revised, by consensus.

It was so decided (resolution 1987/2).

2. Mr. REINBOTHE (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation fully supported the Decade's goals and welcomed the adoption by consensus of draft resolution E/1987/L.23. However, the Federal Republic of Germany continued to consider it inappropriate to refer to migrant workers in the context in question. There was no connection between the status of migrant workers and racial discrimination.

3. Mr. STERLING (United States of America) said that his delegation had not joined the consensus that had led to the adoption of draft resolution E/1987/L.23. The United States had supported the proclamation by consensus of the first Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination but had not participated in any activities under either that Decade or the following one since 1975—the year in which the General Assembly had adopted resolution 3379 (XXX), which equated zionism with racism.

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* Resumed from the 10th meeting.

4. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that at the beginning of May the Soviet Union had ratified the International Convention against *Apartheid* in Sports.[11] That was a basic step towards consolidating the juridical foundation laid by the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of *Apartheid*.[10] All States must support that important instrument with a view to promoting the struggle against one of the worst scourges of mankind. The Soviet Union welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution and would ensure its effective implementation.

5. Mr. BIFFOT (Gabon) said that he welcomed the adoption by consensus of draft resolution E/1987/L.23. All analyses of the issue of racial discrimination should take account of a fundamental factor—"ethnolingualism". When the Western countries referred to what they called "primitive" peoples they were accustomed to using the term "tribalism". It would also be appropriate to speak of ethnolingualism—the influence of a language on a given ethnic group and its relations with other social groups. If that parameter was taken into account in the analysis of *apartheid,* States' attitudes would be better understood. Naturally, that was not the only factor relevant to the issue of *apartheid,* but it was of such great importance that it should be taken into account.

6. The PRESIDENT announced that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 2.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (*concluded*)* (E/1987/L.20, E/1987/L.27)

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE CONVENTION (E/1987/L.27)

7. Mr. GOLEMANOV (Bulgaria) said that his delegation fully supported draft resolution E/1987/L.27. At the same time, it would like to place on record its concern about paragraph 8, which gave rise to procedural problems. In decision 1 contained in the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/1987/L.20,[16] para. 580) the Council was requested to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a resolution that was reproduced in the same paragraph of the report. That was the first instance in which a body established under a treaty submitted a draft resolution to the Council in the manner in which subsidiary organs normally did. If such an approach was taken, the differences between treaty-based bodies in the field of human rights and the Council's subsidiary bodies would be eliminated. Moreover, articles 17 to 22 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[14] regulated various aspects of the Committee's functions and no provision was made for any possibility for the Committee to submit draft resolutions to the Council for adoption. In accordance with article 21, paragraph 1, of the Convention, the Council should simply take note of the report as a whole or point out in an appropriate way that the procedure followed in making the request was unacceptable.

8. His delegation supported draft resolution E/1987/L.27, on the understanding that any future reading of its provisions would be consistent with the relevant provisions of the Convention and with established United Nations practice with respect to the functions of treaty-based bodies in the field of human rights.

9. Bulgaria, which had been one of the first countries to ratify the Convention, attached great importance to the Committee's work and wished to announce that it was joining the sponsors of draft resolution E/1987/L.27.

10. Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan) said that his delegation did not wish to stand in the way of a consensus, but Pakistan had not ratified the Convention since many of its provisions were in conflict with the principles upon which Islam and Islamic society were based.

11. Mr. AL-HAGRI (Oman) said that he wished to reaffirm his previous position and to enter reservations about the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, particularly the unnecessary references to Islam and Islamic society. However, he did not wish to stand in the way of a consensus. The Omani authorities were giving the Convention close consideration and would take the necessary steps.

12. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation supported the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and was in favour of draft resolution E/1987/L.27. The Soviet Union hoped that the draft would be adopted by consensus and that all States would heed the appeal that they should accede to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[14] and comply with all of its provisions.

13. Some delegations, including Greece, had put forward interesting ideas during the discussions in the Committee. For example, it had been proposed that a United Nations seminar on the implementation of the provisions of the Convention should be held. The Soviet Union supported that initiative and was willing to consider, together with the Secretariat, the possibility of holding such a seminar in Moscow in 1989 or at any time considered appropriate. The meeting would be financed from the Soviet Union's contribution to the United Nations technical assistance programme.

14. During the discussion of the Committee's report, comments had been made on the new trends in the Committee's work, and the issue of the relationship between the Council and bodies based on international treaties in the field of human rights had arisen. The Committee's terms of reference had been exceeded in the debate in question. The Council could not assume the role that must be played by States and by the body based on the Convention in order to ensure implementation of the Convention. The principles upon which the relationship between the Council and the bodies established under treaties was based were delicately balanced. The Committee must therefore comply strictly with the provisions of the Convention and not arrogate to itself powers that the Convention did not give it.

15. Mrs. ZOGRAFOU (Observer for Greece) expressed her delegation's appreciation for the proposal made by the Soviet Union to hold in Moscow a United Nations seminar on the implementation of the Conven-

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* Resumed from the 12th meeting.

tion on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.[14] However, her Government's offer to hold the seminar in Greece, referred to in paragraph 125 of the report before the Council (E/1987/L.20[16]), still stood. The authorities were considering the technical aspects involved in hosting the seminar.

16. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/1987/L.27.

It was so decided (resolution 1987/3).

17. Mr. ZARIF (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation did not wish to oppose the adoption by consensus of the draft resolution, but wished to place on record that Iran had serious reservations with respect to the Convention and was not a party to it.

18. Ms. NIEMANN (Canada), referring to comments on the mandate of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, pointed out that it was empowered to make suggestions and general recommendations under article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[14] and that it could also take decisions with respect to the organization of its own work. Nevertheless, the two functions should be clearly separated. It was regrettable that in the report on the sixth session (E/1987/L.20[16]), the Committee's conclusions on its work had been presented in the form of decisions. She hoped that that situation would be rectified at the seventh session.

19. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to decision 1 adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, contained in document E/1987/L.20,[16] and the financial implications of that decision.

20. Mr. GOLEMANOV (Bulgaria) reiterated that, for procedural reasons, the Council should not take a separate decision on decision 1, but should merely take note of the Committee's report as a whole. If delegations insisted on the Council taking a vote on the matter, his delegation would propose that, in accordance with rule 67, paragraph 2, of its rules of procedure, the Council should not take a decision on the proposals contained in decision 1. That motion did not imply criticism of the Committee's work, but sought to avoid creating a precedent as to the Council's working methods with regard to bodies established under human rights treaties.

21. The PRESIDENT announced that, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Council, two representatives could speak in favour and two against the motion proposed by the representative of Bulgaria.

22. Mr. QUINN (Australia), speaking on a point of order, said that there seemed to be some confusion about the relationship between the resolution, which the Council had just adopted, and decision 1 contained in the report of the Committee. As a sponsor of draft resolution E/1987/L.27, the Australian delegation understood that paragraphs 7 and 8 of that resolution replaced decisions 1 and 4 proposed by the Committee, and that the two remaining decisions were covered by the wording "takes note of the report" in paragraph 5 of the resolution which was just adopted. Although it was perhaps formally necessary for the Council to agree not to vote on those decisions, the matter should not cause any controversy.

23. Miss EMARA (Egypt) endorsed the comment made by the representative of Australia.

24. Mr. GOLEMANOV (Bulgaria) said that if the interpretation of the delegations of Australia and Egypt was shared by the Council, his delegation was prepared to withdraw its motion.

25. Mr. YAKOVLEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) remarked that there had been no formal proposal that the Council should consider decision 1 and take action on it. The Council's long-standing practice indicated that bodies established under treaties had no functional links to the Council. Therefore, the recommendations and the decisions of such bodies were to be directed to the States parties concerned, provided that they did not fall outside their competence. However, if it was a question of the United Nations or the Council taking some sort of measures relating to events that occurred within the Committee or in the context of the Convention, the initiative of raising the issue belongs, from the legal standpoint, not to that Committee but to a State member of the Council. In other words, the initiative should come from the members of the Council, and only if a State proposed a recommendation or draft resolution should the Council consider it and take a decision. Since that was not the case, there was no need for the Council to take action on a decision contained in the report of the Committee. Had such a course been proposed, his delegation would have opposed it. However, that had not happened and the issue had been completely resolved with the adoption of draft resolution E/1987/L.27.

26. The PRESIDENT said that, from the statements and clarifications made, he understood that the Council did not wish to take a decision on decision 1. Its consideration of agenda item 4 was therefore concluded.

AGENDA ITEMS 5 AND 6

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (*concluded*)* (E/1987/L.24/Rev.1)

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (*concluded*)* (E/1987/L.19, E/1987/L.24/Rev.1, E/1987/L.25)

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS (*concluded*) (E/1987/L.24/Rev.1)

27. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on the revised draft resolution (E/1987/L.24/Rev.1)

Draft resolution E/1987/L.24/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 1987/4).

28. Mr. STERLING (United States of America) said that, in the view of his delegation, paragraph 3 of the adopted text came within the scope of the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.[8]

29. With regard to paragraph 8, his delegation considered that the use of uniform standards in the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as expressed in the general comments of the Human Rights Committee on the work of other bodies dealing with questions of human rights, in

no way reduced States' obligation to respect civil and political rights.

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS (*concluded*) (E/1987/L.25)

30. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider draft resolution E/1987/L.25 and announced that the delegations of France, Italy and Spain had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

31. Mr. LIU (Assistant Secretary of the Council) read out the revised text of paragraph 6 of the draft resolution, submitted by Australia on behalf of the sponsors. The paragraph read:

> "*Invites* non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council to submit to it written statements that might contribute to full and universal recognition and realization of the rights contained in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and requests the Secretary-General to make those statements available to the Committee in a timely manner."

32. Mr. QUINN (Australia) said that, while draft resolution E/1987/L.25 had been supported by many delegations, the original text of paragraph 6 had given rise to some legal difficulties concerning the question of whether the new Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was a treaty body independent of the Council or whether it was a subsidiary body of the Council. Although the question had not yet been resolved, wide-ranging consultations had been held with the aim of achieving a consensus, the result of which was the new text of paragraph 6. Basically it reaffirmed the fact that non-governmental organizations in consultative status should submit written statements to the Council relating to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The only new element was that such statements should be made available to the new Committee. Apart from that, the general purpose of the draft resolution was to give greater importance to the Committee and thus promote the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, to which adequate attention had not been given within the United Nations. The sponsors were confident that the new wording would make it possible for the draft resolution to be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution E/1987/L.25, as orally revised, was adopted (resolution 1987/5).

PROCLAMATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LITERACY YEAR (E/1987/L.19)

33. The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the note by the Secretariat (E/1987/L.19) and suggested that the Council should adopt a draft decision along the following lines:

> "The Economic and Social Council, having considered the note by the Secretariat, decides to consider the question of the proclamation of the international literacy year, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 41/118 and Council decision 1987/111, at its second regular session of 1987 under item 15 of the provisional agenda, entitled 'International co-operation and co-ordination within the United Nations system'."

34. He would take it, if he heard no objection, that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision he had just read out.

It was so decided (decision 1987/116).

AGENDA ITEM 11

Statistical questions (E/1987/19, E/1987/91)

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1987/91)

35. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to the report of the First (Economic) Committee on agenda item 11 (E/1987/91). In paragraph 14 of the report, the Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Indicative patterns of consumption: qualitative indicators of development".

36. If he heard no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft resolution.

It was so decided (resolution 1987/6).

37. Mr. BENMOUSSA (Morocco) said that, by adopting the draft resolution by consensus, the Council and the international community had reaffirmed the need to determine indicative patterns of consumption that promoted the well-being of the population. That would make it possible to evaluate the degree to which people's basic economic and socio-cultural needs were being satisfied. His delegation was pleased that, despite the Organization's financial crisis, there was still room for new ideas such as the one that had just been introduced, which had given rise to a new statistical analysis tool. Morocco shared the view of the Statistical Commission that, in order to identify indicative patterns of consumption, a long-term view should be taken in order to address issues that would be relevant well into the twenty-first century. Man had a permanent need to free himself from material limitations, take part in laying the foundations for his own existence and thus contribute to the world's future. His delegation hoped that the points he had mentioned would be taken into account in the preparation of the developing countries' national monographs.

38. The PRESIDENT recalled that the text of the second recommendation of the First (Economic) Committee (E/1987/91, para. 15) was contained in the report of the Statistical Commission (E/1987/19, chap. I, sect. A). It concerned a draft decision entitled "Report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-fourth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-fifth session of the Commission".

39. If he heard no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt that draft decision.

It was so decided (decision 1987/117).

40. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 11.

AGENDA ITEM 14

Natural resources (E/1987/21, E/1987/94)

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1987/94)

41. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to the report of the First (Economic) Committee on agenda item 14 (E/1987/94). In paragraph 15 of the report, the Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of seven draft resolutions proposed by the Committee on Natural Resources (E/1987/21, chap. I, sect. A), namely: I, "Water resources and progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan"; II, "Trends and salient issues in mineral resources"; III, "New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring for and assessing natural resources"; IV, "Application of microcomputer technology in the assessment and development of natural resources and energy"; V, "United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration"; VI, "Permanent sovereignty over natural resources"; VII, "Co-ordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources".

42. In paragraph 16 of its report (E/1987/94), the First (Economic) Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of a draft decision entitled "Report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its tenth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the eleventh session of the Committee" (E/1987/21, chap. I, sect. B).

43. He invited the Council to take action on the seven draft resolutions and the draft decision.

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS I, II, III, IV, V, VI AND VII

Draft resolutions I, II, III, IV, V, VI and VII were adopted (resolutions 1987/7, 1987/8, 1987/9, 1987/10, 1987/11, 1987/12 and 1987/13).

DRAFT DECISION

The draft decision was adopted (decision 1987/118).

44. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 14.

AGENDA ITEM 15

Desertification and drought

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1987/95)

45. The PRESIDENT said that the First (Economic) Committee, in paragraph 7 of its report on agenda item 15 (E/1987/95), recommended to the Council the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda".

46. He invited the Council to take action on the draft resolution.

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1987/14).

47. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 15.

AGENDA ITEM 16

Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1987/96)

48. The PRESIDENT said that the First (Economic) Committee, in paragraph 18 of its report on agenda item 16 (E/1987/96), recommended to the Council the adoption of three draft resolutions, namely: I, "Assistance for reconstruction in Vanuatu"; II, "Assistance to El Salvador"; III, "Assistance to Ecuador".

49. He invited the Council to take action on the draft resolutions.

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 1987/15).

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

50. Mrs. VIOTTI (Brazil) said that her delegation wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 1987/16).

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

51. Mrs. VIOTTI (Brazil) said that her delegation was joining the sponsors of the draft resolution.

52. Mr. FONTAINE-ORTIZ (Observer for Cuba) said that his delegation also wished to become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 1987/17).

DRAFT DECISION ON ASSISTANCE TO SOLOMON ISLANDS

53. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council adopt a draft decision along the following lines:

> "The Economic and Social Council takes note of the oral report on assistance to Solomon Islands made before the First (Economic) Committee of the Council on 4 May 1987 by the representative of the United Nations Development Programme, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 41/193.

54. If he heard no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision he had just read out.

It was so decided (decision 1987/119).

55. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 16.

AGENDA ITEM 19

Advancement of Women (E/1987/15, E/1987/44, E/1987/99, E/1987/L.26)

REPORT OF THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE (E/1987/99)

56. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to the report of the Second (Social) Committee on agenda item 19 (E/1987/99). In paragraph 30 of the report, the Committee recommended to the Council

the adoption of nine draft resolutions, namely: I, "Monitoring and review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women"; II, "Improvement of the status of women within the United Nations"; III, "Future world conferences on women"; IV, "Improving the ability of the Commission on the Status of Women to carry out its mandate"; V, "Measures to strengthen the role and functions of the Commission on the Status of Women"; VI, "Enlargement of the Commission on the Status of Women"; VII, "Long-term programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women to the year 2000"; VIII, "International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women"; IX, "Observance of the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Development Fund for Women" (E/1987/99, para. 30). Members had before them the texts of draft resolutions I to VII in the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its 1987 session (E/1987/15, chap. I, sect. A), in which they were originally recommended to the Council for adoption as draft resolutions II to VIII.

57. He invited the Council to take action on draft resolutions I to IX recommended to the Council for adoption by its Second (Social) Committee.

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS I, II AND III

Draft resolutions I, II and III were adopted (resolutions 1987/18, 1987/19 and 1987/20).

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

58. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to the programme budget implications of draft resolution IV, which were contained in document E/1987/L.26.

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 1987/21).

59. Mr. TROUVEROY (Belgium) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution, but continued to have reservations about having the Commission on the Status of Women meet annually. Belgium had consistently supported the work of the Commission and had taken an active part in the World Conference at Nairobi. Furthermore, it understood the need to put into effect the recommendations in the Forward-looking Strategies, which required that Governments work closely with the parties concerned. Nevertheless, his delegation believed that the decision to have the Commission meet annually was premature and had hoped that the Council would defer consideration of the matter until such time as delegations had available to them the results of the study of the Special Commission of the Council. As it was, the decision just adopted would only further complicate the work of the Special Commission.

60. Miss BARKER-HARLAND (United Kingdom) said that her delegation believed that the Commission on the Status of Women had a difficult task to perform and one which had expanded since it had been entrusted with promoting and monitoring the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies adopted at the Nairobi Conference. The General Assembly had adopted by consensus resolution 41/213 recommending, *inter alia,* a study of measures to improve the working of the intergovernmental machinery. Pursuant to that resolution, the Council had established a Special Commission to study the functioning of the Council and its subsidiary bodies, which would not be submitting its report until 1988. Her delegation would have regarded it as more appropriate to defer a decision on annualization of the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women. However, it had joined the consensus because it supported the view that women's issues must be accorded high priority in the United Nations system and because it recognized the wish of the majority that the Commission should meet annually and that a decision to that effect should be taken immediately.

61. Mr. FRIEDRICH (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation had hesitations about joining the consensus on the adoption of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women. In its resolution 41/213, the General Assembly had given the Economic and Social Council a mandate to review its programme and calendar of meetings with a view to reducing the frequency and duration of meetings. It therefore seemed untimely to decide on an increase in the frequency of meetings of a subsidiary body of the Council before the conclusion of the work of the Special Commission. The Federal Republic of Germany had always supported the activities of the Commission on the Status of Women, but the reforms which had been adopted on the basis of recommendations approved by the General Assembly should apply without exception to all United Nations activities in the economic and social fields. Perhaps it would have been more appropriate to provide for special meetings of the Commission on an *ad hoc* basis. His delegation welcomed the decision to transmit the report of the most recent session of the Commission on the Status of Women to the Special Commission, which would have an opportunity to examine the agenda and schedule of meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women. His delegation had joined the consensus in favour of the draft resolution in order not to break the spirit of unity, which it considered indispensable for the advancement of women. However, that position should not be considered as a precedent for other subsidiary bodies of the Council.

62. Mr. BERGTHUN (Norway) said that his delegation would have preferred that the question of annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women be considered by the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields, since any other procedure would not be in accordance with the decisions taken by the Council with the aim of reorganizing and improving its work.

63. Ms. NIEMANN (Canada) said that her delegation had consistently supported the principle of an effective and efficient United Nations organization, and it fully endorsed the reform measures adopted by consensus in General Assembly resolution 41/213, in particular recommendation 2, which called for reduction in the number, frequency and duration of meetings without affecting the work of the Organization, and recommendation 8, which called for a structural reform of the intergovernmental machinery in the economic and social fields. However, her delegation believed that the work of the Commission on the Status of Women was an organic part of United Nations activities in general and was

linked to the work of most other intergovernmental bodies dealing with specific issues in the economic, social and political fields. Her delegation considered that the annualization of the Commission's meetings was consistent with the spirit of Assembly resolution 41/213 and the goals of the United Nations. The adoption by consensus of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies emphasized the priority which the international community had decided to give to the equality of women. Furthermore, in the introduction to the proposed programme budget for 1988-1989, the Secretary-General had proposed that Africa and women should constitute two priority areas in the biennium 1988-1989. Accordingly, Canada would continue to support all measures which would help to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations system in dealing with issues relating to the status of women.

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS V, VI AND VII

Draft resolutions V, VI and VII were adopted (resolutions 1987/22, 1987/23 and 1987/24).

DRAFT RESOLUTION VIII

Draft resolution VIII was adopted (resolution 1987/25).

64. Mr. AMSELEM (United States of America) said, with regard to draft resolution VIII, that his country had firmly supported the establishment of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), but that it had reason to question the quality and usefulness of the material published by the Institute.

65. Mr. HOPPE (Denmark) requested that the reference to Denmark in paragraph 24 of document E/1987/99 be deleted.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IX

Draft resolution IX was adopted (resolution 1987/26).

66. Mr. AMSELEM (United States of America) said that he wished to place on record his delegation's doubts about the usefulness of introducing yet another observance of an anniversary in the United Nations system, as was proposed in the resolution just adopted.

67. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to paragraph 31 of the report of the Second (Social) Committee (E/1987/99), in which the Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of four draft decisions, namely: I, "System-wide medium-term plan for women and development and system-wide co-ordination of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women"; II, "Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989"; III, "Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its 1987 session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-second session of the Commission"; IV, "In-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields". By draft decision I, the Committee recommended that the Council defer consideration of draft resolution I, of the same title, which the Commission on the Status of Women had recommended for adoption in its report (E/1987/15, chap. I, sect. A), until its second regular session of 1987. The texts of draft decisions II and III were contained in the report of the Commission (*ibid.*, chap. I, sect. B).

68. He invited the Council first to take action on draft decisions II and III.

DRAFT DECISIONS II AND III

Draft decisions II and III were adopted (decisions 1987/120 and 1987/121).

DRAFT DECISION I

Draft decision I was adopted (decision 1987/122).

DRAFT DECISION IV

69. Ms. NIEMANN (Canada) proposed that the Council consider an amendment which would clarify the position of the Commission on the Status of Women with regard to its own functioning. The proposed amendment would add to the text of the draft decision the following words: "and on the understanding that such action is without prejudice to any views and proposals which the Commission on the Status of Women may express at its thirty-second session regarding its own functioning."

70. Mr. SCHWANDT (Federal Republic of Germany) expressed surprise that an amendment should be proposed at the last minute, when the draft decision had already been adopted by the Second Committee. In his opinion, any recommendation which the Special Commission might make in pursuance of Council decision 1987/112 in no way affected future decisions of the Commission on the Status of Women. He therefore requested clarification from the representative of Canada.

71. Mrs. ALVAREZ (France) said that she had been surprised at Canada's oral proposal to amend the draft decision without having given prior notice to delegations. Further, she requested an explanation of the meaning of the proposed amendment and, lastly, pointed out a problem of timing: in conformity with its mandate, the Special Commission was scheduled to meet at the beginning of September 1987 in order to decide on a number of important issues and would thus not be able to hear the opinions of the Commission on the Status of Women.

72. Ms. NIEMANN (Canada) said that it had not been her intention to hold up the work of the Council. With regard to the observations which had just been made, she pointed out that, when the Second (Social) Committee had adopted the decision in question, delegations had not had an opportunity to consider a written text. The purpose of the proposed amendment was to guarantee that the Special Commission would hear the opinions of the Commission on the Status of Women regarding its own functioning before producing a report, in conformity with Council decision 1987/112. With regard to the schedule of work, various subsidiary bodies of the Council, for example the Commission on Human Rights and the Committee on Social Development, had not yet expressed their views regarding their own functioning and, since they would not meet in 1987, could do so only in 1988.

73. Mr. TROUVEROY (Belgium) said that his delegation was perplexed at Canada's proposal, and proposed that, unless the amendment was of substantive importance, the draft decision should be approved as it

stood in order to expedite work and preserve the consensus.

74. Ms. NIEMANN (Canada) said that the amendment was of great importance. However, in the interest of expediting the Council's work, she suggested that the consideration of the item should be continued at another meeting.

75. The PRESIDENT suggested that the discussion of the item should be suspended.

It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 20

Narcotic drugs (A/CONF.133/PC/10 and Corr.1, E/1987/17, E/1987/27, E/1987/54, E/1987/102)

REPORT OF THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE (E/1987/102)

76. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to the report of the Second (Social) Committee on agenda item 20 (E/1987/102). In paragraph 25 of the report, the Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of eight draft resolutions, namely: I, "Preparation of an international convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances"; II, "Education and information on drug abuse and illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances"; III, "Role of the drug control bodies of the United Nations at Vienna"; IV, "Improvement of the control of international trade in psychotropic substances listed in Schedules III and IV of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances"; V, "Demand and supply of opiates for medical and scientific needs"; VI, "United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control"; VII, "Special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs"; VIII, "Meeting of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and Caribbean Region". The texts of draft resolutions I to VII were contained in the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its thirty-second session (E/1987/17, chap. I, sect. A), in which the draft resolutions were originally recommended to the Council for adoption. Draft resolution VIII (E/1987/102, para. 25) originated in the Second (Social) Committee.

77. In paragraph 26 of the report, the Second (Social) Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of six draft decisions, namely: I, "Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-third session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs"; II, "Provisional agenda and documentation for the tenth special session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs"; III, "Report of the International Narcotics Control Board"; IV, "Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs"; V, "Preparations for the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking"; VI, "Summary of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1986 and note by the Secretariat on the international campaign against traffic in drugs". The texts of draft decisions I to IV were contained in the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/1987/17, chap. I, sect. B). Draft decisions V and VI (E/1987/102, para. 26) originated in the Second (Social) Committee.

78. He invited the Council to take action on the draft resolutions and draft decisions recommended by the Second (Social) Committee to the Council for adoption, beginning with those texts which were contained in the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 1987/27).

79. Miss ATTWOOD (United Kingdom) said that her delegation attached great importance to the drafting of an international convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs. However, she considered that the procedure recommended by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was not necessarily the most efficient one and could delay the preparation of the convention. In addition, the proposal to hold two meetings of a group of intergovernmental experts placed an additional financial burden on the resources of the United Nations and of the Member States which might wish to attend. Her delegation suggested that the draft convention should be carefully prepared in order to avoid duplication and to ensure that the greatest number of countries ratified it as soon as possible.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Draft resolution II was adopted (resolution 1987/28).

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 1987/29).

80. Miss ATTWOOD (United Kingdom) reiterated her delegation's concern, expressed previously in other United Nations forums, that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should be provided with sufficient financial data to enable it to evaluate the future work and priorities of United Nations drug control bodies adequately. It was essential that those bodies should co-ordinate their efforts as much as possible to prevent any overlapping of activities. Her delegation had been requesting further information regarding the budget and programming in that area for some time, but had received none to date. Her delegation hoped those bodies would submit such information in the future.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

Draft resolution IV was adopted (resolution 1987/30).

DRAFT RESOLUTION V

Draft resolution V was adopted (resolution 1987/31).

81. Ms. BARUTÇU (Turkey) said that her delegation attached great importance to the adoption of draft resolution V on supply and demand of opiates for medical and scientific needs as well as to previous Economic and Social Council resolutions on that subject. Taking into account the position of the International Narcotics Control Board that opiates listed by it should not be considered ordinary commodities, the production, manufacture and distribution of which could be governed by normal economic considerations, Turkey held the view that economic and commercial interests must not override the fundamental need for international co-operation in that field. For that reason, her delegation fully supported the relevant recommendations of the Council aimed at providing special support to traditional supplier countries.

82. Mrs. MUKHERJEE (India) also stressed the importance of support for traditional supplier countries, such as Turkey and India, where poppy-growing had constituted a significant part of the economy since time immemorial. Prospects for crop substitution were limited, and measures adopted to that end had already had negative economic and social repercussions. International co-operation in the area of narcotics was not limited to solidarity devoid of any economic considerations. Attempts to change internationally established criteria in that regard ran counter not only to solidarity in the field of narcotic drugs, but also to the concept of an equitable international economic order.

83. Mr. QUINN (Australia), referring to the draft resolution which had just been adopted, said that it, like previous resolutions on licit opiates, had diverted the attention of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs from its primary objective, which was to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking through international co-operation. Australia, which had joined with other delegations in voting against or abstaining on similar resolutions, had not altered its position. His delegation's decision to join in the consensus did not mean that Australia had modified the principles on which its position had been based since the late 1970s; specifically, it did not accept the concept of "traditional supplier countries" of illicit opiates. The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961[24] did not recognize that category, nor did it sanction the notion of a group of countries enjoying a monopoly or quasi-monopoly on trade in those commodities. The subject was not one of priority, given that pressing problems existed in the area of drug abuse and illicit trafficking which were part of the Board's mandate.

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS VI AND VII

Draft resolutions VI and VII were adopted (resolutions 1987/32 and 1987/33).

DRAFT DECISIONS I, II, III AND IV

Draft decisions I, II, III and IV were adopted (decisions 1987/123, 1987/124, 1987/125 and 1987/126).

DRAFT RESOLUTION VIII

Draft resolution VIII was adopted (resolution 1987/34).

84. Mr. STERLING (United States of America), referring to draft resolution VIII, said that his delegation strongly supported co-operation in matters relating to narcotics at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels.

85. United Nations budget-cutting efforts should be directed towards a reordering of priorities and, given that the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking was a priority goal, must receive the necessary funds from the programme budget for 1988-1989, which was to be considered in the context of General Assembly resolution 41/213.

86. With regard to the financial implications of draft resolution VIII, his delegation expected that the travel and subsistence costs of participants would be covered by extrabudgetary resources, as indicated in annex IV of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/1987/17). It was to be hoped that meeting participants would make effective use of conference services and produce documentation that was thorough but as concise as possible.

DRAFT DECISIONS V AND VI

Draft decisions V and VI were adopted (decisions 1987/127 and 1987/128).

87. The PRESIDENT announced that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 20.

AGENDA ITEM 1

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

AMENDMENT TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION AWARD (E/1987/L.18)

88. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to the amendment proposed to article 7, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Committee for the United Nations Population Award contained in Council decision 1982/112. The text of the amendment, proposed by the Committee, was contained in a note by the Secretariat (E/1987/L.18).

89. If he heard no objections, he would take it that the Council adopted the amendment.

It was so decided (decision 1987/129).

AGENDA ITEM 9

Transport of dangerous goods (*continued*) (E/1987/37, E/1987/L.29)

90. Mr. FIELD (United Kingdom) introduced draft resolution E/1987/L.29, entitled "Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods", on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by Belgium, Spain and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. To a great extent, the draft resolution took up the ideas contained in Council resolutions 1985/9 and 1986/66, which had been adopted by consensus.

91. Member States and international bodies used the Committee's recommendations in drafting their own rules regarding the transport of dangerous goods; in view of the increasing volume of such traffic, it was important that recommendations should be coherent and co-ordinated and that rules should be kept up to date. For that reason, the draft resolution requested the Secretary-General to publish the new and amended recommendations as soon as possible and urged all bodies to take them fully into account when developing their own codes. It also requested the Secretary-General to facilitate the adequate servicing of the Committee of Experts. He expressed the hope that, as in previous years, the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

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[24] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

15th meeting

Wednesday, 27 May 1987, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. Eugeniusz NOWORYTA (Poland)

E/1987/SR.15

In the absence of the President, Mr. Barnett (Jamaica), Vice-President, took the Chair.

AGENDA ITEM 21

Elections and nominations

STATISTICAL COMMISSION (E/1987/L.1)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect eight members of the Statistical Commission for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1988.

2. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the following candidates had been endorsed by their regional groups: Ghana and Morocco for the two vacancies to be filled by African States; China and Pakistan for the two vacancies to be filled by Asian States; Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia for the two vacancies to be filled by Eastern European States; Panama for the vacancy to be filled by Latin American States; and the United States of America for the vacancy to be filled by Western European and other States.

3. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of nominees of each group was equal to the number of vacancies, he would take it that the Council wished to elect the nominated States by acclamation.

It was so decided.[*]

POPULATION COMMISSION (E/1987/L.1)

4. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect nine members of the Population Commission for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1988.

5. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the following nominations had been made: Nigeria, Rwanda and Togo for the three vacancies to be filled by African States; Iraq and Japan for the two vacancies to be filled by Asian States; Poland for the vacancy to be filled by Eastern European States; Bolivia and Costa Rica for the vacancy to be filled by Latin American States; and France and Sweden for the two vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

6. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of nominees from each of the Groups of African, Asian, Eastern European and Western European and other States was equal to the number of vacancies for those Groups, he would take it that the Council wished to elect the nominees by acclamation.

It was so decided.[*]

7. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot one member from the Group of Latin American States.

At the invitation of the President, Mrs. Kimata (Japan) and Mr. Muller (Australia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Bolivia	34
Costa Rica	20

Having obtained the required majority, Bolivia was elected a member of the Population Commission for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1988.[*]

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (E/1987/L.1)

8. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 11 members of the Commission for Social Development for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1988.

9. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the regional groups had endorsed the following candidates: the Sudan and Uganda for the two vacancies to be filled by African States; Iraq and Pakistan for the two vacancies to be filled by Asian States; Romania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the two vacancies to be filled by Eastern European States; Guatemala and Haiti for the two vacancies to be filled by Latin American States; and the Federal Republic of Germany, France and the United States of America for the three vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

10. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of nominees of each group was equal to the number of vacancies, he would take it that the Council wished to elect the nominees by acclamation.

It was so decided.[*]

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (E/1987/L.1)

11. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 15 members of the Commission on Human Rights for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1988.

12. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the following candidates had been nominated: Botswana, Gambia, Nigeria and Sao Tome and Principe for the four vacancies to be filled by African States; China, Japan, Sri Lanka and the Syrian Arab Republic for the three vacancies to be filled by Asian States; Bulgaria for the vacancy to be filled by Eastern European States; Argentina, Peru and Venezuela for the three vacancies to be filled by Latin American States; and Australia, Austria, the Federal Republic of

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[*] See decision 1987/130.

[*] See decision 1987/130.

Germany, Greece, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the four vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

13. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of nominees of the Groups of African, Eastern European and Latin American States was equal to the number of vacancies to be filled by those Groups, he would take it that the Council wished to elect the nominees by acclamation.

It was so decided. *

14. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot three members from the Group of Asian States and four members from the Group of Western European and other States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Bangali (Sierra Leone) and Mr. Kitaev (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot to elect three members from the Group of Asian States.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
China	48
Japan	44
Sri Lanka	38
Syrian Arab Republic	22

Having obtained the required majority, China, Japan and Sri Lanka were elected members of the Commission on Human Rights for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1988. *

A vote was taken by secret ballot to elect four members from the Group of Western European and other States.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	53
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
Federal Republic of Germany	37
Spain	35
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	35
Portugal	26
Austria	24
Greece	22
Australia	20

Having obtained the required majority, the Federal Republic of Germany, Spain, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were elected members of the Commission on Human Rights for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1988. *

15. The PRESIDENT said that, since none of the other nominees had obtained the required majority, the Council would proceed to a second vote by secret ballot to elect the fourth member, choosing between the two nominees which had obtained the next largest numbers of votes in the first vote, namely, Austria and Portugal.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Portugal	35
Austria	19

Having obtained the required majority, Portugal was elected a member of the Commission on Human Rights for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1988. *

COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS (E/1987/L.2)

16. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 16 members of the Commission on Transnational Corporations for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1988.

17. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the regional groups had endorsed the following candidates: Burundi, Cameroon, Ghana and Uganda for the four vacancies to be filled by African States; India, Iraq, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea for the four vacancies to be filled by Asian States; the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and Poland for the two vacancies to be filled by Eastern European States; Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela for the three vacancies to be filled by Latin American States; and Canada, Italy and Turkey for the three vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

18. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of nominees of each group was equal to the number of vacancies to be filled by States from each group, he would take it that the Council wished to elect the nominees by acclamation.

It was so decided. *

INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING (E/1987/L.6)

19. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 17 members of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1988.

20. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the regional groups had endorsed the following candidates: Kenya and Swaziland for two of the five vacancies to be filled by African States; China for one of the three vacancies to be filled by Asian States; Brazil for one of the three vacancies to be filled

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* See decision 1987/130.

* See decision 1987/130.

by Latin American States; and Canada, France, Norway and Spain for four of the five vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

21. Mr. TOURE (Guinea) pointed out that his delegation had nominated Zaire for one of the vacancies to be filled by African States.

22. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of nominees of each group was less than the number of vacancies to be filled by States from those groups, he would take it that the Council wished to elect the States nominated by acclamation and to postpone the elections to fill the remaining vacancies, namely, one member from the Asian States for a term beginning on the date of election and ending on 31 December 1988; three members from the Eastern European States, one for a term beginning on the date of election and ending on 31 December 1987, and two for a term beginning on the date of election and ending on 31 December 1988; two members from the Latin American States, one for a term beginning on the date of election and ending on 31 December 1987 and the other for a term beginning on the date of election and ending on 31 December 1988; and two members from the African States, two members from the Asian States, one member from the Eastern European States, two members from the Latin American States and one member from the Western European and other States, for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1988.

It was so decided. *

COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES (E/1987/L.7)

23. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect five members of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1988.

24. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the regional groups had nominated the following candidates: Kenya for the seat vacated by a member of the Group of African States; Japan and Pakistan for the two seats vacated by two members of the Group of Asian States; and Belgium for one of the two seats vacated by two members of the Group of Western European and other States.

25. The PRESIDENT said that since, in the case of the African States and of the Asian States, the number of nominees of each group was equal to the number of retiring members from those groups, he would take it that the Council wished to elect the nominees by acclamation.

It was so decided. *

26. The PRESIDENT said that since the number of nominees of the Group of Western European and other States was less than the number of retiring members from that Group, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Belgium by acclamation and postpone the election of one member from the Group of Western European and other States.

It was so decided. *

WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (E/1987/L.9)

27. The PRESIDENT announced that, in accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 3348 (XXIX), the Council should nominate candidates to fill 12 vacancies in the World Food Council that would arise on 31 December 1987. At its forty-second session the General Assembly would elect the members for a three-year term in the World Food Council beginning on 1 January 1988.

28. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the following States had been nominated: Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar and Zambia for the three vacancies to be filled by African States; China, Indonesia, Nepal and Thailand for the three vacancies to be filled by Asian States; Bulgaria for the vacancy to be filled by an Eastern European State; Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay for the two vacancies to be filled by Latin American States; and Canada, Turkey and the United States of America for the three vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

29. The PRESIDENT pointed out that, with the exception of the Group of Asian States and the Group of Latin American States, the number of nominees from the regional groups was equal to the number of vacancies to be filled by those groups. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council, in accordance with the practice followed in the past, wished to nominate all the candidates proposed by the regional groups, from among which the General Assembly would select the appropriate number.

It was so decided. *

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION (E/1987/L.8)

30. The PRESIDENT said that, in accordance with its resolution 2008 (LX), the Council should nominate States to fill the seven vacancies that would arise in the Committee at the end of 1987. At its forty-second session, the General Assembly would elect the members for a three-year term in the Committee, beginning on 1 January 1988.

31. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the following States had been nominated: Bangladesh and India for the vacancy to be filled by an Asian State; Bulgaria, Poland, Romania and Yugoslavia for the two vacancies to be filled by Eastern European States; Cuba, Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago for the vacancy to be filled by a Latin American State; and Austria, Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the three vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

32. The PRESIDENT said that in every case the number of nominees was greater than the number of vacancies to be filled. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council, in accordance with the practice followed on other occasions, wished to nominate all the proposed States, from which the General Assembly at its forty-second session would make its choice.

It was so decided. *

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* See decision 1987/130.

* See decision 1987/130.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (E/1987/L.3)

33. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 19 members of the Commission on Human Settlements for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1988.

34. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the regional groups had nominated the following States: Botswana, Burundi, Egypt, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania for the five vacancies to be filled by African States; Bangladesh, Cyprus, India, Jordan and Sri Lanka for the five vacancies to be filled by Asian States; the German Democratic Republic for one of the two vacancies to be filled by Eastern European States; Jamaica, Mexico and Peru for the three vacancies to be filled by Latin American States; and the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece and Norway for the four vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

35. The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of nominees of each group was equal to or less than the number of vacancies in each case, he would take it that the Council wished to elect the nominees by acclamation and postpone the election of one member from the Eastern European States and one member from the Western European and other States.

It was so decided. *

36. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that with respect to the election, postponed from previous sessions, to a vacant seat to be filled by the Group of Asian States for a three-year term beginning on the date of the election and ending on 31 December 1988, the Group of Asian States and the permanent observer of the Republic of Korea had requested withdrawal of the nomination of the Republic of Korea.

37. The PRESIDENT said that, in the absence of any other nominees, the election to that vacant seat should also be postponed.

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (E/1987/L.1)

38. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 10 members of the Committee on the Status of Women for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1988.

39. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the following States had been nominated by their regional groups: Burkina Faso and Lesotho for the two vacancies to be filled by African States; China, Lebanon and Pakistan for the two vacancies to be filled by Asian States; the German Democratic Republic for the vacancy to be filled by an Eastern European State; Costa Rica, Cuba and Guatemala for the three vacancies to be filled by Latin American States; and Sweden and Turkey for the two vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

40. The PRESIDENT said that since the number of nominees of the Groups of African, Eastern European, Latin American and Western European and other States was equal to the number of vacancies in each case, he would take it that the Council decided to elect the nominees by acclamation.

It was so decided. *

41. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from the Group of Asian States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Muller (Australia) and Mr. Caprirolo-Cattoretti (Bolivia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers: 54
Invalid ballots: 0
Number of valid ballots: 54
Abstentions: 0
Number of members voting: 54
Required majority: 28
Number of votes obtained:
China 48
Pakistan 35
Lebanon 20

Having obtained the required majority, China and Pakistan were elected members of the Commission on the Status of Women for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1988. *

COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS (E/1987/L.1)

42. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 20 members of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1988. The special criteria governing the election were laid down in Economic and Social Council resolution 845 (XXXII).

43. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the regional groups had nominated the following States: Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt and Madagascar to replace the three retiring members of the Group of African States; India, Lebanon, Pakistan and Thailand to replace the four retiring members of the Group of Asian States; Poland and Yugoslavia to replace the two retiring members of the Group of Eastern European States; the Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia and Peru to replace the three retiring members of the Group of Latin American States; Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States of America to replace the eight retiring members of the Group of Western European and other States.

44. The PRESIDENT said that since the number of nominees of the Groups of African, Asian, Eastern European and Western European and other States was equal to the number of vacancies in each Group, he would take it that the Council decided to elect those nominees by acclamation.

It was so decided. *

45. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot three members from the Group of Latin American States.

At the invitation of the President, Mrs. Kimata (Japan) and Mr. Kitaev (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers: 53
Invalid ballots: 0
Number of valid ballots: 53

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* See decision 1987/130.

* See decision 1987/130.

Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	53
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
Brazil	37
Peru	37
Bolivia	36
The Bahamas	24
Colombia	24

Having obtained the required majority, Bolivia, Brazil and Peru were elected members of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1988. *

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (E/1987/L.5)

46. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 10 members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund for a three-year term beginning on 1 August 1987.

47. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that the regional groups had nominated the following States: Benin and Liberia for the two vacancies to be filled by African States; the Philippines, India and Indonesia for the three vacancies to be filled by Asian States; Yugoslavia for the vacancy to be filled by an Eastern European State; Uruguay for the vacancy to be filled by a Latin American State; Australia, Belgium, Sweden and Switzerland for the three vacancies to be filled by Western European and other States.

48. The PRESIDENT said that, since Costa Rica had withdrawn its candidature, the number of vacancies for the Groups of African, Asian, Eastern European and Latin American States was equal to the number of nominees of each Group, and he thus took it that the Council wished to elect the nominees by acclamation.

It was so decided. *

49. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot three members from the Group of Western European and other States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Caprirolo-Cattoretti (Bolivia) and Mr. Bangali (Sierra Leone) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Australia	43
Belgium	41
Switzerland	39
Sweden	36

Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Australia, Belgium and Switzerland were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund for a three-year term beginning on 1 August 1987. *

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

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* See decision 1987/130.

* See decision 1987/130.

16th meeting

Wednesday, 27 May 1987, at 3.25 p.m.

President: Mr. Eugeniusz NOWORYTA (Poland)

E/1987/SR.16

AGENDA ITEM 21

Elections and nominations (*concluded*)

GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (E/1987/L.4)

1. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 16 members to the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme for a three-year term beginning on the first day of the organizational meeting of the Governing Council in February 1988.

2. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) informed the Council that there were three candidates for the three vacancies to be filled by African States: Ghana, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Zimbabwe. There were three candidates for the three vacancies to be filled by Asian States and Yugoslavia: China, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yugoslavia. The candidate for the vacancy for the Eastern European States was the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. There were five candidates for the three vacancies for the Latin American States: Chile, Cuba, Guatemala, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago. There were six candidates for the six vacancies for the Western European and other States: Austria, Italy, Japan, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

3. The PRESIDENT noted that, in the case of the African States, the Asian States and Yugoslavia, the Eastern European States and the Western European and other States, the number of endorsed candidates was equal to the number of vacancies. He would therefore take it, if he heard no objection, that the Council wished to elect the candidates from those groups by acclamation.

Austria, China, Ghana, Italy, Japan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Norway, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Union *of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, the United States, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe were elected members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme by acclamation.**

4. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect three members from among the candidates proposed for the vacancies for the Latin American States.

At the invitation of the President, Mrs. Kimata (Japan) and Mr. Kitaev (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Peru	43
Cuba	33
Guatemala	29
Trinidad and Tobago	29
Chile	22

*Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Cuba and Peru were elected members of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme.**

Guatemala and Trinidad and Tobago having received an equal number of votes, a second vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	53
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
Guatemala	27
Trinidad and Tobago	26

*Having obtained the required majority, Guatemala was elected a member of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme.**

Mr. Laberge (Canada), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (E/1987/45 and Add.1, E/1987/67)

5. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to appoint three members to the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women to fill vacancies that would be created by the expiration on 30 June 1987 of the term of office of three members.

6. Since Ms. Daniela Colombo (Italy) was the only candidate from the Group of Western European and other States, he would take it that the Council wished to appoint her to the Board of Trustees by acclamation.

*It was so decided.**

7. The PRESIDENT suggested that, since the number of candidates from the Asian States and the African States exceeded the number of vacancies to be filled, the Council should proceed to elect one member from each of those two groups by secret ballot.

8. Ms. KIMBALL (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said the Secretariat had been informed that the candidatures of Ms. Husain (Pakistan), Ms. Maknoon (Islamic Republic of Iran), Ms. Varnavides (Cyprus) and Ms. Varadappan (India) had been withdrawn.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Kitaev (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and Mr. Caprirolo-Cattoretti (Bolivia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot for the election of one member from the Asian States.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	52
Required majority:	27
Number of votes attained:	
Ms. Luhulima (Indonesia)	43
Ms. Phuavongsephatya (Thailand)	9

*Having obtained the required majority, Ms. Achie Sudiarti Luhulima (Indonesia) was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.**

A vote was taken by secret ballot for the election of one member from the African States.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Ms. Hadra (Sudan)	26
Ms. Lazrak (Morocco)	11
Ms. Kebede (Ethiopia)	10
Ms. Sareteka (Togo)	5
Ms. Marshall (Liberia)	2

No candidate having obtained the required majority, a second vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	53
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
Ms. Hadra (Sudan)	36
Ms. Lazrak (Morocco)	17

*Having obtained the required majority, Ms. Tawida O. Hadra (Sudan) was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women.**

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* See decision 1987/130.

* See decision 1987/130.

9. The PRESIDENT said that the Council would also be required to appoint one member for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 30 June 1988 to serve for the unexpired portion of the term of office of Ms. Ingrid Eide (Norway), who had resigned after joining the staff of the United Nations Development Programme. He drew attention to a communication from the Government of Norway (see E/1987/67) submitting the candidature of Ms. Kristin Tornes (Norway) to fill that vacancy. In the absence of other candidatures, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Ms. Kristin Tornes (Norway) for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 30 June 1988.

It was so decided. *

Mr. Noworyta (Poland) resumed the Chair.

CONFIRMATION OF THE NOMINATIONS TO THE BOARD OF THE UNITED NATIONS RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (E/1987/20)

10. The PRESIDENT drew attention to decision 30/101 of the Commission for Social Development, contained in chapter I, section C, of its report (E/1987/20), in which the Commission had decided to nominate two candidates for membership on the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development: they were Mr. Lucio Kowarick (Brazil) for a four-year term beginning on 1 July 1987, and Mr. Ulf Hannerz (Sweden) for an additional two-year term beginning on 1 July 1987.

11. If he heard no objections, he would take it that the Council wished to confirm those nominations.

It was so decided. *

ELECTIONS POSTPONED FROM PREVIOUS SESSIONS: COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES (E/1987/30)

12. The PRESIDENT recalled that, as indicated in the annotations to item 21 of the agenda in document E/1987/30, the Council had, at its organizational session for 1987, postponed until a future session the election of the following members to the Committee on Natural Resources: two members from African States, two members from Asian States and four members from Western European and other States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1990, and one member from Western European and other States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1988. He informed the Council that the African States had nominated Côte d'Ivoire and Swaziland for its two vacancies, and that the Western European and other States had nominated Turkey to fill one of the vacancies for a term expiring on 31 December 1990.

13. He would take it, if he heard no objection, that the Council wished to elect those candidates by acclamation.

Côte d'Ivoire, Swaziland and Turkey were elected members of the Committee on Natural Resources by acclamation for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1990. *

14. The PRESIDENT suggested that, since no candidates had been nominated for the remaining vacancies for the Western European and other States, those elections should be postponed until a later session.

It was so decided. *

15. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had thus completed its consideration of agenda item 21.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.

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* See decision 1987/130.

* See decision 1987/130.

17th meeting

Thursday, 28 May 1987, at 10.50 a.m.

President: Mr. Eugeniusz NOWORYTA (Poland)

E/1987/SR.17

AGENDA ITEM 19

Advancement of women (*concluded*)* (E/1987/15, E/1987/44, E/1987/99, E/1987/L.26)

REPORT OF THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE (*concluded*)* (E/1987/99)

DRAFT DECISION IV (*concluded*)*

1. Mr. LABERGE (Canada), referring to draft decision IV, said that his delegation was withdrawing the amendment it had submitted at a previous meeting (14th meeting, para. 69) and proposed the following text to replace it:

> "It is understood that the Commission on the Status of Women, like other intergovernmental bodies, would have full opportunity to submit its views and proposals on achieving the objectives envisaged in recommendation 8 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts regarding its functioning to the Special Commission on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields within 30 days of the conclusion of its forthcoming session".

2. The PRESIDENT, after an exchange of views in which the representatives of Canada, Djibouti, France and the United Kingdom participated, said that, if he

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* Resumed from the 14th meeting.

heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the text of draft decision IV as formulated in the report of the Second (Social) Committee (E/1987/99, para. 31) and to consider the clarification proposed by Canada as a comment to be included in the report of the Council for the year 1987.

It was so decided (decision E/1987/131).

3. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 19.

AGENDA ITEM 18

Social development (E/1987/20, E/1987/98 and Add.1)

REPORT OF THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE (E/1987/98 AND Add.1)

PART I (E/1987/98)

4. The PRESIDENT drew the attention of the Council to part I of the report of the Second (Social) Committee on agenda item 18, contained in document E/1987/98. In paragraph 41 of that part of the report, the Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of 16 draft resolutions, namely: I, "National experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress"; II, "Use of science and technology in the interest of social and economic development"; III, "International Year of Shelter for the Homeless"; IV, "Twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development"; V, "Critical social situation in Africa"; VI, "Social aspects of rural development"; VII, "Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging"; VIII, "Need to enhance international co-operation in protection of and assistance for the family"; IX, "United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons"; X, "Efforts and measures for securing the implementation and the enjoyment by youth of human rights, particularly the right to life, to education and to work"; XI, "Youth in the contemporary world"; XII, "National policies for families"; XIII, "National experience in promoting the co-operative movement"; XIV, "Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes"; XV, "Preparations for the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders"; XVI, "Improvement of the work of the Commission for Social Development". In paragraph 42 of part I (E/1987/98) of the report, the Second (Social) Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of a draft decision. For the texts of draft resolutions I to VI and VIII to XIV, as well as the draft decision, members should refer to the report of the Commission for Social Development (E/1987/20, chap. I, sects. A and B). For the texts of draft resolutions VII, XV and XVI, he referred members to the report of the Committee (E/1987/98, para. 41).

5. He invited the Council to take action on the 16 draft resolutions and the draft decision, which the Second (Social) Committee recommended to it for adoption.

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS I, II, III, IV, V AND VI

Draft resolutions I, II, III, IV, V and VI were adopted (resolutions 1987/35, 1987/36, 1987/37, 1987/38, 1987/39 and 1987/40).

DRAFT RESOLUTION VII

Draft resolution VII was adopted (resolution 1987/41).

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS VIII AND IX (E/1987/20)

Draft resolutions VIII and IX were adopted (resolutions 1987/42 and 1987/43).

DRAFT RESOLUTION X

6. The PRESIDENT said that the Second (Social) Committee had adopted draft resolution X by 48 votes to 1.

At the request of the representative of the United States, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution X.

In favour: Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guinea, Iceland, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zaire.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Haiti.

*Draft resolution X was adopted by 48 votes to 1, with 1 abstention (resolution 1987/44).**

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS XI, XII, XIII AND XIV

Draft resolutions XI, XII, XIII and XIV were adopted (resolutions 1987/45, 1987/46, 1987/47 and 1987/48).

DRAFT RESOLUTION XV

Draft resolution XV was adopted (resolution 1987/49).

7. Mr. QUINN (Australia) said that it was his delegation's understanding that the funds released as a result of the rationalization of the work of the United Nations Congresses on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders would be retained within the crime prevention programme instead of being allocated to other programmes.

DRAFT RESOLUTION XVI

Draft resolution XVI was adopted (resolution 1987/50).

DRAFT DECISION

8. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirtieth session and

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*See 18th meeting, para. 1.

provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-first session of the Commission".

The draft decision was adopted (decision 1987/132).

PART II (E/1987/98/ADD.1)

9. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider part II (E/1987/98/Add.1) of the report of the Second (Social) Committee. In paragraph 22 of that part of the report, the Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of three draft resolutions, namely: I, "Co-ordination and information in the field of youth"; II, "World social situation"; III, "Review of the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice". In paragraph 23 of that part of the report, the Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of two draft decisions. Draft resolution II was entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress". Later in the meeting the President would refer to draft decision I.

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 1987/51).

10. Ms. YOUNG (United Kingdom) said that her delegation had not wished to obstruct the consensus reached after lengthy negotiations on draft resolution I, but it had some difficulty with the reference in the third preambular paragraph to "objective and accurate" information. Such adjectives were difficult to define, and it was not clear who would be responsible for defining them. The United Kingdom interpreted that paragraph in the light of its obligations under article 19, paragraph 2, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.[5]

11. Mr. HOPPE (Denmark) and Mr. BERGTHUN (Norway) said that they endorsed the statement of the representative of the United Kingdom.

12. Mr. AL-HAGRI (Oman) observed that, although his country had been a sponsor of draft resolution I, it was not listed among the sponsors in document E/1987/98/Add.1.

13. After a procedural discussion in which Mr. CONSTANTINESCU (Romania), Mr. LOULICHKI (Morocco) and the Secretary of the Council participated, the PRESIDENT said that Oman, Pakistan, Panama and Peru would be added to the list of the sponsors of draft resolution I in the report of the Council for the year 1987.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

14. The PRESIDENT recalled that the Second (Social) Committee had adopted draft resolution II, in a recorded vote, by 39 votes to 1, with 12 abstentions.

15. Mr. NORRIS (United States of America) said that his delegation was forced to call for a recorded vote on draft resolution II and to vote against it. No action had been taken on the initial text at the session of the Commission for Social Development the previous February because it had not been possible to reach agreement on it. There was no reason why the Council should take action on a proposal that had not been acceptable to the Commission that had dealt with it in the first place. Furthermore, the draft resolution was similar to General Assembly resolution 40/100 of 13 December 1985, which the United States had also voted against. His delegation would not vote in favour of resolutions which sought to impose on the world economy a system which would only impede the development of poorer countries. Draft resolution II implied that the arms race was the main obstacle to economic and social progress and the only source of resources available for redistribution, which was not the case. The United States believed that economic growth would lead to the reduction of disparities and not magnify them, as implied by the text. Economic growth could be attained by freedom, especially the freedom that came through the respect of basic human rights such as freedom of expression, movement, religion and association and through the respect of basic economic rights such as entrepreneurship and the right to own property.

At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution II.

In favour: Bangladesh, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Colombia, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Guinea, Haiti, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Draft resolution II was adopted by 39 votes to 1, with 12 abstentions (resolution 1987/52).

16. Mr. BANGO BANGO nyi MBEKWEEMBI wa GBAU (Zaire) said that he wanted to place on record that he had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution but had not had time to press the appropriate button.

17. Mr. TROUVEROY (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the twelve States members of the European Economic Community, said that, although he shared the concern expressed in the draft resolution concerning the present social situation of the world and the need to improve it, the Twelve had been unable to vote in favour of the text for various reasons. In several paragraphs of the adopted text an unbalanced picture was given of the world economic situation. It was not correct to say that no progress had been made in recent years, since several countries had made remarkable progress. For various reasons beyond the control of the Twelve, several paragraphs had been added at the last minute, with no possibility of debate, despite the fact that, in them, concepts reappeared that had been the subject of lengthy negotiations. Such an approach was not a useful one if the Council was to adopt resolutions that would help to bring about the progress desired by all. During the forty-first session of the General Assembly, a subtler approach to problems had been reflected in the debates, and that had made it possible to arrive at concrete results; in that regard, the resolution just adopted constituted a regrettable step backwards. Nev-

ertheless, the Twelve were prepared to discuss the topic when it came up again in the Council's programme of work.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Draft resolution III was adopted (resolution 1987/53).

18. Mr. GOLEMANOV (Bulgaria), referring to paragraph 4 of draft resolution III, expressed the hope that the measures to be adopted by the Secretary-General for the redeployment of staff and funds in order to ensure adequate resources for United Nations programmes in the field of crime prevention would not adversely affect the functioning of other units.

DRAFT DECISION I

19. The PRESIDENT suggested that, since paragraph 20 of part II (E/1987/98/Add.1) of the report reflected the measures adopted by the Second (Social) Committee on the subject, the Council did not need to adopt any formal decision on draft decision I.

DRAFT DECISION II

Draft decision II was adopted (decision 1987/133).

20. The PRESIDENT announced that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 18.

AGENDA ITEM 9

Transport of dangerous goods (*concluded*)*
(E/1987/37, E/1987/L.29)

DRAFT RESOLUTION E/1987/L.29

21. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider draft resolution E/1987/L.29, entitled "Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods". He announced that the German Democratic Republic had become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution E/1987/L.29 was adopted (resolution 1987/54).

22. Mr. QUINN (Australia) said that he was pleased that the draft resolution had been adopted by consensus. Australia, which was an observer in the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and engaged in activities in that sphere, hoped that the Secretariat could provide the support necessary for the implementation of the provisions of the draft resolution just adopted.

23. The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should adopt a draft decision along the following lines: "The Economic and Social Council takes note of the oral report (13th meeting, paras. 23 and 24) made by the senior Adviser to the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1986/66". If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision by consensus.

It was so decided (decision 1987/134).

24. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 9.

AGENDA ITEM 10

Public administration and finance

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1987/90)

25. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had before it the report of its First (Economic) Committee on agenda item 10 (E/1987/90). In paragraph 14 of the report, the Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Public administration and finance for development". In paragraph 15 of the report, a draft decision entitled "Declaration on Local Self-Government" was recommended for adoption.

26. He invited the Council to take action on the proposals.

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 1987/55).

The draft decision was adopted (decision 1987/135).

27. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 10.

AGENDA ITEM 12

Cartography

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1987/92)

28. The PRESIDENT said that in paragraph 11 of the report of the First (Economic) Committee on agenda item 12 (E/1987/92) the Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of a draft decision entitled "Eleventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific".

29. Mr. CABACTULAN (Philippines) said that the report of the First (Economic) Committee did not mention the statement of the Philippines on the item, and he asked for that oversight to be remedied. He took the opportunity to point out a few specific points that his delegation wished should be taken into account when the Secretary-General adopted measures for the implementation of the recommendations of the Eleventh United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific. First, unless adequate financial support was given to future cartographic activities, the resources already used in that field would be wasted. Secondly, it would be advisable not to publish volume II of the report of the Eleventh Cartographic Conference and to use those funds for adopting measures that would contribute to the achievement of the Conference's objectives, including financial support for needy countries so that they could participate in the next conference. Thirdly, the recommendations of the Eleventh Cartographic Conference contained in paragraphs 7, 9, 12 and 19 of its report should be implemented.

30. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision by consensus.

It was so decided (decision 1987/136).

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* Resumed from the 14th meeting.

31. The PRESIDENT announced that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 12.

AGENDA ITEM 13

Transnational corporations (E/1987/22, E/1987/40, E/1987/93)

REPORT OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE (E/1987/93)

32. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had before it the report of its First (Economic) Committee on agenda item 13 (E/1987/93), the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its reconvened special session, held on 6 April 1987 (E/1987/40), and the report of the Commission on its thirteenth session, held from 7 to 16 April 1987. The First (Economic) Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of two draft resolutions and three draft decisions.

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

33. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to proceed to a non-recorded vote on draft resolution I, "Activities of transnational corporations in South Africa and Namibia", recommended by the First (Economic) Committee, the text of which appeared in the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its thirteenth session (E/1987/22, chap. I, sect. A). The First Committee had adopted the draft resolution by 32 votes to 2, with 5 abstentions.

A non-recorded vote was taken on draft resolution I.

Draft resolution I was adopted by 44 votes to 2, with 6 abstentions (resolution 1987/56).

34. Mrs. ASHTON (Bolivia) said that her country's vote had not registered on the board although she had voted in favour.

35. Mr. PILBEAM (Australia) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution because it supported the general thrust, namely, the need for effective international action to bring about a genuine process of reform in South Africa and ensure a peaceful future for all its people.

36. The Australian Government felt that transnational corporations had to share the responsibility of opposing *apartheid*, but it did not accept the implication in paragraph 4 of the draft resolution that the activities of transnational corporations were solely responsible for the perpetuation of the régime in South Africa and the illegal occupation of Namibia. Australia had introduced a code of conduct for transnational corporations, which corresponded to the objectives sought in paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, and which encouraged Australian transnational corporations to go as far as they could, within South African laws, to avoid exploiting a system that was condemned in Australia.

37. The Australian delegation could not support the provisions of paragraphs 7 and 9 (*d*), which called for the implementation of the recommendations of the Panel of Eminent Persons, particularly in the case of those which called for the violation of South African laws. He was not convinced that the study requested in paragraph 9 (*c*) would contribute significantly to the achievement of the general objectives of the resolution, and he regretted that an additional demand should be made on the Secretary-General at a time when efforts were being made to limit documentation.

38. Mr. JØNCK (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that they had voted in favour of the draft resolution because they supported its general thrust but that they were not in agreement with some specific elements of the document, such as the overly general terms of paragraph 4 and the last part of paragraph 2. Paragraphs 5 and 7, moreover, raised the difficult problem of determining the extent to which the State of origin could have jurisdiction to intervene in activities taking place within the jurisdiction of the other State.

39. Lastly, with regard to the request contained in paragraph 9 (*c*), the Nordic countries would submit for consideration by the sponsors of the draft resolution a proposal to consolidate all reports in a single document in order to economize.

40. Mr. BROWN (Canada) endorsed the statements made by the previous speakers.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

41. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft resolution II, "Code of conduct on transnational corporations", recommended by the First (Economic) Committee, the text of which was contained in the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its reconvened special session (E/1987/40, chap. I). If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution II by consensus.

It was so decided (resolution 1987/57).

DRAFT DECISION I

42. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decision I, "Provisional agenda and documentation for the fourteenth session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations", recommended by the First (Economic) Committee, the text of which was contained in the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its thirteenth session (E/1987/22, chap. I, sect. B).

Draft decision I was adopted (decision 1987/137).

DRAFT DECISION II

43. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decision II, on documentation before the thirteenth session of the Commission on Transnational Corporations, submitted in the report of the First (Economic) Committee (E/1987/93, para. 20). If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft decision II without a vote.

It was so decided (decision 1987/138).

DRAFT DECISION III

44. The PRESIDENT invited the Council to take action on draft decision III, on reports of the Commission on Transnational Corporations on its thirteenth session and on its reconvened special session, submitted in the

report of the First (Economic) Committee (E/1987/93, para. 20).

Draft decision III was adopted (decision 1987/139).

45. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 13.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.

18th meeting

Friday, 29 May 1987, at 11.10 a.m.

President: Mr. Eugeniusz NOWORYTA (Poland)

E/1987/SR.18

Statement relating to item 18

1. Mr. DIRAR (Sudan), referring to agenda item 18, consideration of which had been concluded at the 17th meeting of the Council, said that if his delegation had been present during the voting it would have voted in favour of draft resolution X entitled "Efforts and measures for securing the implementation and the enjoyment by youth of human rights, particularly the right to life, to education and to work", the text of which was contained in the report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirtieth session (E/1987/20, chap. I, sect. A).

AGENDA ITEM 17

Human rights (E/1987/18 and Corr.1, E/1987/97)

REPORT OF THE SECOND (SOCIAL) COMMITTEE (E/1987/97)

2. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had before it the report of its Second (Social) Committee on agenda item 17 (E/1987/97). On page 10 of the report, the Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of six draft resolutions, namely: I, "Question of a convention on the rights of the child"; II, "Question of a draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms"; III, "Summary or arbitrary executions"; IV, "Use of mercenaries as a means to violate human rights and to impede the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination"; V, "Realization of the right to adequate housing"; VI, "Infringements of trade union rights in South Africa". For the texts of draft resolutions II and III, members should refer to the report of the Commission on Human Rights (E/1987/18 and Corr.1, chap. I, sect. A), in which the draft resolutions were originally recommended to the Council for adoption. For the texts of draft resolutions I, IV, V and VI, members should refer to the report of the Second (Social) Committee (E/1987/97, pp. 10-16).

3. On page 16 of the report of the Second (Social) Committee, 17 draft decisions were recommended to the Council for adoption, namely: I, "Situation of human rights in Haiti"; II, "General decision concerning the establishment of a working group of the Commission on Human Rights to examine situations referred to the Commission under Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) and those situations of which the Commission is seized"; III, "Situation of human rights in South Africa"; IV, "Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief"; V, "Use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination"; VI, "The right to development"; VII, "Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment"; VIII, "Voluntary fund for advisory services and technical assistance in the field of human rights"; IX, "Situation of human rights in El Salvador"; X, "Situation of human rights in Guatemala"; XI, "Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran"; XII, "Question of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Afghanistan"; XIII, "Question of human rights in Chile"; XIV, "Report of the Commission on Human Rights"; XV, "Organization of the work of the Commission on Human Rights"; XVI, "Right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation"; XVII, "National institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights". For the texts of draft decisions I to XI and XIII to XV, members should refer to the report of the Commission on Human Rights (E/1987/18 and Corr.1, chap. I, sect. B), in which the draft decisions, with arabic numerals, were originally recommended to the Council for adoption. For the texts of draft decisions XII, XVI and XVII, members should refer to the report of the Second (Social) Committee (E/1987/97, pp. 16-18).

4. He invited the Council to take action on the 6 draft resolutions and the 17 draft decisions recommended by the Second (Social) Committee for adoption.

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Draft resolution I was adopted (resolution 1987/58).

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS II AND III

Draft resolutions II and III were adopted (resolutions 1987/59 and 1987/60).

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

5. The PRESIDENT noted that draft resolution IV had been adopted by the Second (Social) Committee by a recorded vote of 38 to 11, with 3 abstentions.

A vote on the draft resolution was taken by roll-call.

Sri Lanka, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Bangladesh, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Colombia, China, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Guinea, Haiti, India, Iran (Islamic

Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zaire, Zimbabwe.

Against: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Norway, Oman.

Draft resolution IV was adopted by 37 votes to 11, with 3 abstentions (resolution 1987/61).

6. Mr. POPOLIZIO (Peru) said that his delegation had wished to explain its vote before the vote. Since it had been unable to do so, it had not voted. He requested that Peru's vote in favour should be taken into consideration in the final count.

7. Miss EMARA (Egypt) said that the representative of Peru had formally requested to speak before the results of the voting had been announced and therefore should be allowed to cast its vote.

8. The PRESIDENT suggested that the vote of Peru should be taken into account. The results of the voting would therefore be 38 votes in favour, 11 against and 3 abstentions.

It was so decided.

9. Mr. KABANDA (Rwanda) said that if his delegation had been present during the voting it would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

10. Mr. KAM (Panama) wished it to be noted that if his delegation had been present during the voting on draft resolution IV, "The use of mercenaries as a means to violate human rights and to impede the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination", it would have voted in favour.

11. Mr. AL-HAGRI (Oman) said that his delegation had made statements in the Second (Social) Committee in explanation of its vote on the draft resolution, expressing Oman's opposition to the use of mercenaries in any circumstances. Nevertheless, his abstention on the present occasion was in accordance with the position it had adopted concerning the work of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly.

DRAFT RESOLUTION V

12. The PRESIDENT said that the Second (Social) Committee had adopted draft resolution V by a recorded vote of 49 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

13. Miss BYRNE (United States of America) asked whether, since the draft resolution could not be put to a recorded vote because the electronic mechanism was out of order, it would be possible to proceed to a vote by a show of hands, in which case the United States would abstain.

A vote was taken on draft resolution V.

Draft resolution V was adopted by 53 votes to none, with 1 abstention (resolution 1987/62).

DRAFT RESOLUTION VI

Draft resolution VI was adopted (resolution 1987/63).

DRAFT DECISIONS I, II, III AND IV

Draft decisions I, II, III and IV were adopted (decisions 1987/140, 1987/141, 1987/142 and 1987/143).

DRAFT DECISION V

14. The PRESIDENT said that the Second Committee had adopted draft decision V by a recorded vote of 39 votes to 12, with 2 abstentions.

15. Miss ACHKAR (Guinea) said that in the French text of document E/1987/18 four paragraphs on page 15 and the text of the draft resolution on Afghanistan were missing.

16. Mr. ACAKPO-SATCHIVI (Assistant Secretary of the Council) said that there were no omissions in the English text and that the complete text in French would be reproduced as soon as possible.

A vote was taken by roll-call on draft decision V.

China, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Bangladesh, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Colombia, China, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Guinea, Haiti, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zaire, Zimbabwe.

Against: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Australia, Oman.

Draft decision V was adopted by 40 votes to 12, with 2 abstentions (decision 1987/144).

DRAFT DECISION VI

Draft decision VI was adopted (decision 1987/145).

17. Miss BYRNE (United States of America) said that her delegation had not participated in the adoption of draft decision VI, concerning the right to development, on which it had already fully expressed its opinions at the forty-first session of the General Assembly and forty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights.

DRAFT DECISIONS VII, VIII, IX AND X

Draft decisions VII, VIII, IX and X were adopted (decisions 1987/146, 1987/147, 1987/148 and 1987/149).

DRAFT DECISION XI

18. The PRESIDENT said that the Second Committee had adopted draft decision XI by 23 votes to 6, with 15 abstentions.

A vote was taken by roll-call on draft decision XI.

Turkey, having been drawn by lot by the President, was called upon to vote first.

In favour: Australia, Belgium, Belize, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela.

Against: Iran (Islamic Republic of), Oman, Pakistan, Romania, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic.

Abstaining: Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, India, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Turkey, Zaire, Zimbabwe.

Draft decision XI was adopted by 22 votes to 7, with 16 abstentions (decision 1987/150).

19. Mr. AUGUSTE (Haiti) said that his country wished to vote in favour of the draft resolution just adopted.

20. Mr. LINDGREN (Brazil) said that the international community should explore all possibilities of co-operation before passing judgement on any given situation. It therefore believed that the Council should accept the offer made by the Iranian Government to receive a special representative of the Secretary-General, taking into account that country's request that any expert sent to evaluate its internal situation must be an expert in Islamic law. Furthermore, the work of the special rapporteurs and representatives should not be used for political ends. Brazil's abstention should not be interpreted as a criticism of Mr. Galindo Pohl, whose work was held in high esteem by the Government of Brazil.

21. Mr. ZARIF (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the decision just adopted was based on a series of resolutions that had been rejected by the Government of Iran because of their political nature and because they prejudged the situation of human rights in his country. He reiterated that Iran was not prepared to co-operate with any political measure passed off as a defence of "human rights".

DRAFT DECISION XII

Draft decision XII was adopted (decision 1987/151).

22. Mr. DOST (Observer for the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan) informed the Council that, at the invitation of his Government, fruitful discussions had recently been held in New York with Mr. Felix Ermacora, the Special Rapporteur, concerning his forthcoming visit to Afghanistan. He hoped that the Special Rapporteur would have the opportunity to prepare a factual, correct and unbiased report of the situation of human rights in Afghanistan. His Government had also invited two delegations of States members of the Commission on Human Rights and also the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit Afghanistan.

DRAFT DECISION XIII

Draft decision XIII was adopted (decision 1987/152).

DRAFT DECISION XIV

Draft decision XIV was adopted (decision 1987/153).

23. Mr. LOULICHKI (Morocco), referring to resolution 1987/3, contained in the report of the Commission on Human Rights (E/1987/18 and Corr.1) which had just been adopted, said that, as stated in document A/41/723, his country had decided not to participate in the debate on the question of Western Sahara so as to avoid becoming involved in a sterile polemic or jeopardizing the likelihood of success of the good-offices initiative. The progress made by the Secretary-General in the search for a just and definitive solution to that question led his Government to reaffirm the position taken during the forty-first session of the General Assembly.

24. Mrs. BARUTÇU (Turkey), referring to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1987/50, said that her country believed that a fair, comprehensive and lasting resolution of the problem of Cyprus could only come about through agreement between the two parties involved, namely, the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots. Turkey supported the Secretary-General's mission of good offices to that end. The attempts to single out certain issues and seek solutions for them in bodies where one of the parties was not represented were incompatible with the basic principles of justice, and their only motivation was to undermine the Secretary-General's mission of good offices and perpetuate the problem of Cyprus. Political calculations lay behind the resolution in question. The absence of any reference to the work of the Committee on Missing Persons, on the other hand, proved how flawed the resolution was and amounted to an admission by the Greek Cypriot side of its reluctance to participate in the Committee's work with a constructive attitude.

25. Two years of strenuous efforts by the Secretary-General had resulted in the draft framework agreement on Cyprus[25] he had presented to the two parties on 29 March 1986, which provided the framework for negotiating a just and lasting solution. Unfortunately, the party which had yet to accept that document had redoubled its efforts to frustrate the Secretary-General's mission of good offices. It was deplorable that the same party had used the Commission on Human Rights to attain its purely political objective.

26. Her delegation wished to state that it could not support resolution 1987/50 and noted with satisfaction that 18 members of the Commission itself had expressed opposition to that resolution.

27. Mr. GVIR (Observer for Israel) said that Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1987/1, 1987/2 A and B, 1987/4 and 1987/49 represented a new litany of arbitrary and baseless accusations against Israel. Once again, the United Nations was letting itself be used as an instrument of the demented forces waging a political campaign against his country.

28. Israel was being condemned for virtually every conceivable human rights violation. Furthermore, no serious critical review was made of human rights abuses by the dictatorial régimes of certain Arab and other countries. That illustrated how political and tendentious were the human rights measures adopted in the United Nations. Israel appealed to the Council to restore balance and fairness to its investigations of human rights abuses, and explicitly rejected the resolutions mentioned, which unjustly condemned Israel.

29. As for Commission resolution 1987/49 on the situation in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon,

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[25] See *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-first Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1986*, document S/18102/Add.1, annex II.

although it once again exemplified the selective approach of the United Nations, it did also strongly condemn the siege that had prevented the delivery of food and medicine to the refugees for 155 days, which offered a ray of hope. In any case, it failed to mention that the siege was carried out by the Amal militia, an omission that was hard to justify. When Arabs themselves committed aggression against their own brethren, the condemnation was worded in a vague and impersonal manner. That malicious practice only contributed to the further erosion of the integrity and credibility of the United Nations.

30. Mrs. MARCOULLIS (Observer for Cyprus) said that Commission on Human Rights resolution 1987/50 contained all the elements needed to put the Cyprus problem in the proper perspective, taking into account the deterioration of the human rights situation in that country. Nearly 40 per cent of Cyprus continued to be occupied. The Turkish occupation forces, instead of withdrawing as called for in numerous United Nations resolutions, were being steadily reinforced. Turkish settlers now numbered more than 65,000, and the obvious aim of the settlement policy was to change the country's demographic structure. For the last 13 years the refugees had been denied their inalienable right to return to their homes and lands. The process of destroying the local culture and imposing Turkish culture in the occupied areas continued unabated.

31. The people of Cyprus had, during the 13 years of Turkish occupation, placed their hopes in international law. Commission resolution 1987/50 was a landmark document for the vindication of human rights in Cyprus. The validity of that resolution, which had been sponsored by 13 non-aligned countries and supported by the overwhelming majority of the members of the Commission, did not depend upon the attitude taken towards it by the aggressor. Turkey, in violation of its commitments under the Charter of the United Nations, not only refused to implement United Nations resolutions, including those of the Security Council, but also violated them flagrantly, thus undermining all efforts towards a just and lasting solution that would allow the people of Cyprus to live in peace and prosperity.

32. Mr. KABANDA (Rwanda) indicated that, although draft decision XIV had been adopted without a vote, his delegation wished to go on record as having been in favour of it. Even though at the forty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights Rwanda had abstained in the vote on the draft resolution on the question of human rights violations in the northern part of Cyprus, adopted as Commission resolution 1987/50, since then it had had occasion to become convinced that such violations were directly related to the secession of northern Cyprus. Rwanda could not accept the secession of any part of a sovereign State and believed that it would be best to work towards restoring the integrity of Cyprus as soon as possible.

DRAFT DECISION XV

Draft decision XV was adopted (decision 1987/154).

DRAFT DECISION XVI

33. The PRESIDENT said that the Second (Social) Committee had adopted the draft decision by 41 votes to 7, with 2 abstentions.

34. Mr. RESHETOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the delegations of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics would vote against draft decision XVI because it contradicted reality, was based on interference in the internal affairs of the people of Kampuchea and sought to have Kampuchea revert to the era of the cruel Pol Pot dictatorship. The delegations mentioned strongly opposed using United Nations organizations to support the Pol Pot criminals who had committed genocide against the Kampuchean people. They therefore rejected the draft decision under consideration and invited all who respected human rights and wished to re-establish normalcy in South-East Asia to vote against it.

A roll-call vote was taken on draft decision XVI.

In favour: Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, China, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guinea, Haiti, Iceland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zaire.

Against: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, German Democratic Republic, India, Poland, Syrian Arab Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Abstaining: Iraq, Zimbabwe.

Draft decision XVI was adopted by 41 votes to 7, with 2 abstentions (decision 1987/155).

35. Mr. PRASITH (Observer for Democratic Kampuchea) said that the decision taken by the Council for the eighth time was an expression of the indomitable desire of the international community to prevent any country, under any pretext, from interfering in the internal affairs of another country or imposing its will on it. The decision showed a firm resolve to defend the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the international norms governing relations between States in the interest of maintaining international peace and security. It also showed that eight years of lies, slander and manoeuvring had not enabled Kampuchea's invaders and occupiers to win acceptance for their actions in the international community.

36. Thanks to international support combined with military pressure on the spot by the national resistance forces, the struggle by the Kampuchean people was now entering a strategic phase which would lead it irreversibly to national liberation. The road that the Kampuchean people must still travel in order to exercise their right to self-determination was not, however, free of obstacles and dangers because the enemy was not yet prepared to renounce its ambition of establishing an "Indo-China Federation", or the regional expansionism which it had fostered for more than half a century. It also received immense amounts of support from its well-known protector, which it provided with important military bases to serve as platforms for its global expansion. Both patron and protégé were seeking to wear down the patience and resolution of all those who supported the struggle of the Kampuchean people. What they had been unable to win by force of arms they tried to obtain by means of propaganda,

diversion, beating about the bush and other such manoeuvres.

37. His delegation, on behalf of the Kampuchean people and their Coalition Government, therefore urged all peace- and justice-loving countries to keep up their guard and continue their noble support for the resolutions of the General Assembly on Kampuchea and the eight-point peace plan put forward by His Royal Highness Norodom Sihanouk on behalf of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea. Only when the resolutions and peace plan were put into effect would the Kampuchean people be able freely to exercise their right to self-determination with no invasion or occupation forces present, and then Kampuchea would once again become an independent, pacific, neutral and non-aligned country, and peace, security and stability would once again reign in the South-East Asian region.

DRAFT DECISION XVII

Draft decision XVII was adopted (decision 1987/156).

38. Mr. AKYOL (Turkey), speaking in exercise of the right of reply and referring to the earlier statement by the representative of Rwanda (para. 32 above), said that his delegation wished to point out that the decision on Commission on Human Rights resolution 1987/50 had been passed in the absence of one of the parties vitally concerned—the Turkish Cypriot community. The slightest regard for fairness would prevent any value from being attached to a resolution issuing from a discussion from which one party, not only the principal party concerned but the victim of flagrant human rights violations, had been excluded. The political exploitation of the Commission's work redounded to the grave detriment of the human rights cause. If a solution was to be found to the Cyprus problem which dealt with all aspects of the matter, the consent of both parties must be obtained; resolutions stemming from unilateral initiatives would contribute nothing towards such a solution.

39. The framework agreement on Cyprus,[25] presented to the two parties on 19 March 1986 by the Secretary-General after numerous contacts, contained some elements of a balanced solution, taking the political equality of the two communities in Cyprus as a starting-point. The distinguished representative of Rwanda could hardly object to such a principle. The Turkish community had accepted the Secretary-General's proposal, not because that proposal entirely satisfied its requirements but because it was prompted by a spirit of compromise and the hope of reaching a just and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem as soon as possible. The basic agreement had not been accepted by the Greek side, probably because it provided for equal rights for the two communities. That was the heart of the problem.

40. Mr. KABANDA (Rwanda) said his delegation was aware that the difficult situation in northern Cyprus had been the subject of exchanges between the Governments concerned, with the Secretary-General acting as intermediary. It would have been preferable if the attempt to resolve the problem of the Greek and Turkish communities in northern Cyprus had continued, but his Government did not believe that secession could represent the culmination of such negotiations or the answer to the problem. The best thing would be for discussions between the two communities to resolve the problem to continue, and for all the territory of Cyprus to be reunited as a sovereign State.

41. Mrs. MARCOULLIS (Observer for Cyprus) said that the representative of Turkey had spoken of calumny, but had actually been referring to United Nations resolutions and to Member States which had supported them. The Turkish delegation might equally well accuse of calumny the eminent jurists of the European Commission of Human Rights, who had adopted a report of fundamental importance on the situation of human rights in Cyprus.

42. Regarding the Secretary-General's mission of good offices, mentioned by the representative of Turkey, the President of Cyprus had made the following statement clearly explaining the position of Cyprus:

> "In a letter addressed to the Secretary-General on 10 June 1986, I explained to him our position with regard to his latest initiative, and I suggested to him how we might proceed forward. Progress cannot be made by demanding more and more concessions from one side to the point that an arrangement will be both totally unjust and unworkable. In fact, all the concessions we made in the past, which, I repeat, no other Government in our position, in my humble view, would have made, were contingent upon acceptance of the position that the subject-matter of the resolutions of the United Nations relating to the withdrawal of the occupation troops and settlers, the question of the effective international guarantees with no spurious claims of rights of unilateral interventions, and the application of the fundamental freedoms and human rights for all Cypriots, were priority questions to be discussed and settled urgently. If agreement on these three fundamental issues is not possible, there is no point in discussing further the constitutional aspect of the problem; if, on the other hand, agreement on the three vital issues proves possible, that will facilitate an overall agreement as provided for in the resolutions of the United Nations. The way out, therefore, would be, without further delay and as a matter of priority, to tackle the important issues of the Cyprus problem."

43. Mr. AKYOL (Turkey), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his delegation agreed with the essence of Rwanda's position to the effect that negotiation was the most appropriate way. He also accepted the plan prepared by the Secretary-General regarding the creation of a bi-communal federal State based on the political equality of both communities.

44. Mr. HERNDL (Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights) said that since its inception the United Nations had worked to define and strengthen human rights and fundamental freedoms on the basis of a specific mandate set forth in Article 1 of the Charter. The Organization's work to promote human rights was directly linked to its work to maintain international peace and security, which was its foremost purpose. Respect for human rights was an essential condition for preserving peace.

45. In the modern world there were hardly any international issues which did not have a human rights dimension. Such issues needed to be studied from the angle of human rights so that policies and strategies were adopted that were grounded in respect for the

dignity of the human person. The United Nations had created a system of universally applicable norms, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[8] which had become instruments of international law, and the two Covenants,[12] which had been supplemented by further treaties and other instruments, including most recently the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.[26] The process of supplementing and refining that international legal normative system would have to continue, through the implementation of human rights norms and a tightening of the international procedures designed to ensure compliance with them. To that end, organs had been set up to probe into specific country situations or into phenomena such as disappearance, summary or arbitrary executions, torture and the issue of mercenarism.

46. In general terms, the United Nations had advanced to the stage where it was monitoring implementation of human rights norms world wide. It was also attempting to consolidate and expand its activities in the area of advisory services, with the establishment of a voluntary fund for advisory services and technical assistance in the field of human rights, referred to in Commission resolution 1987/38, which had been endorsed by the Council when it adopted draft decision VIII.

47. The effects of the international human rights programme would henceforth have to reach the national level. The United Nations must make use of the experience of the international community to induce States to fulfil their duties, facilitate the discharge of those duties and help satisfy the needs at the national level for international co-operation, for exchanges of information, and for advice and assistance. Action should be taken to support the evolution of a national human rights infrastructure, so that each country could demonstrate its commitment through specific action, with the advice and active support of the United Nations.

48. On the question of budgetary and financial resources, none of the activities currently carried out could be regarded as being in its final phase, since the normative system had to be refined and adapted to new developments. Increased emphasis would have to be placed on the evolution of economic, social and cultural rights and the monitoring procedures must be maintained, as must the capacity of the Organization to assist States effectively in the implementation process. That was why organs and new approaches had been developed. What was needed was further consolidation of the system. It would not be possible, therefore, to eliminate or reduce the activities of the existing organs. It would seem imperative that the level of resources to be provided for the human rights programme should be commensurate with the activities outlined and the organizational approach taken. Any long-term view must take into account the totality of the programme and the need to keep the United Nations actively involved in the promotion of human rights on a world-wide scale. With the resolutions and decisions just adopted by the Council, a number of important programmes and priorities had been determined which showed the road to be followed in the future.

49. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 17.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

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[26] General Assembly resolution 39/46, annex.

19th meeting

Friday, 29 May 1987, at 3.30 p.m.

President: Mr. Eugeniusz NOWORYTA (Poland)

E/1987/SR.19

AGENDA ITEM 3

In-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields (*concluded*)* (E/1987/L.30)

1. Mr. BADAWI (Egypt), speaking as Chairman of the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields, drew attention to draft resolution E/1987/L.30 on agenda item 3, submitted by the President of the Council. During the consultations he himself had conducted on that draft resolution, two concerns had emerged: that the Special Commission's sessions should, to the extent possible, not coincide with those of other bodies in the economic and social fields, and that the Council should review both its own programme of work and that of the Special Commission at its organizational session for 1988. It was expected that both of those concerns would be met. He hoped that the Council would be able to adopt the compromise draft resolution by consensus.

2. Mr. RWAMBUYA (Budget Division), reporting on the programme budget implications of draft resolution E/1987/L.30, said that the conference services and facilities for the 50 official meetings called for in paragraph 4 of the draft resolution would require $994,400 at 1987 rates, and an appropriation would be included in the consolidated statement to be submitted to the General Assembly. It should, however, be recalled that those costs could be met from the estimated appropriation for non-General Assembly conference servicing included

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* Resumed from the 13th meeting.

in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989, provided that such conference services did not diverge substantially from the pattern of the previous five years.

3. Mr. ANDRADE DÍAZ-DURÁN (Observer for Guatemala), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that it had agreed to support draft resolution E/1987/L.30, but would prefer that, in view of the importance of the work of the Special Commission, its sessions should not coincide with those of other intergovernmental bodies, and that the Special Commission itself should be flexible in agreeing on its 1988 calendar of meetings.

4. The Group of 77 believed that the in-depth study should not be taken up for discussion at the forthcoming second regular session of the Council to be held in Geneva, since there was nothing further to report until after the Special Commission's next session in September. It hoped, further, that the 50 official meetings of the Special Commission called for in the draft resolution would be scheduled without prejudice to the calendar of meetings already planned and budgeted for in 1988.

5. The Group of 77 planned to hold informal consultations as often as necessary with other groups and delegations in order to prepare for the September session of the Special Commission.

6. Mr. EL GHOUAYEL (Observer for Tunisia) suggested minor drafting changes in the English and French texts of the draft resolution.

7. Mr. BROWN (Canada) welcomed particularly the assurance that the Group of 77 intended to continue holding informal consultations.

8. The PRESIDENT said that he would take it, if he heard no objection, that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/1987/L.30.

It was so decided (resolution 1987/64).

9. The PRESIDENT observed that it was understood that meetings of the Special Commission should not coincide with those of other bodies in the economic and social fields. It was also understood that the Council at its organizational session for 1988 would be in a position to review the Special Commission's work programme, as well as the number of meetings required for it to complete its work.

10. Mr. PAULSEN (Norway) asked whether that meant that the Special Commission could not begin to hold its meetings until after the organizational session in February 1988. His delegation would be opposed to that, since not enough time would be allowed for the 50 scheduled meetings to be convened without overlapping with those of other bodies.

11. The PRESIDENT said that quite the reverse had been intended: at its organizational session, the Council would simply be in a position to take any additional decisions that might be needed at that time regarding the Special Commission's ongoing work schedule.

12. Mr. KHALIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that his delegation hoped that the meetings of the Special Commission would be scheduled so as not to coincide with the session of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, even though it was not strictly speaking an economic and social body.

13. The PRESIDENT said that, indeed, that could be assumed.

14. Mr. DIECKMANN (Federal Republic of Germany) asked how many days were left for the meetings of the Special Commission, if it was to avoid overlapping with so many other bodies which would continually be holding meetings.

15. Mr. SHAABAN (Egypt) recalled that the Chairman of the Special Commission had explicitly used the words "to the extent possible" in referring to the desirability of avoiding any overlapping.

16. Mr. DE CLERCK (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the 12 nations of the European Community, welcomed the adoption of draft resolution E/1987/L.30, since it reflected their concerns. They also endorsed the holding of informal consultations to prepare future sessions.

17. Mr. BARNETT (Jamaica) reminded the Secretariat of his request for a document containing the responses to decisions taken on the structure of the economic and social sectors, and hoped that it would soon be circulated.

18. Mr. McKINTYRE (Assistant Secretary-General, Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation) said that the Director-General, after having reviewed the question of Secretariat support for the Special Commission's future work programme, had come to the same conclusions as were implicit in paragraph 5 of the draft resolution just adopted, namely, that a more formal Secretariat support system should be set up. Accordingly, the following arrangements had been made: an advisory group reporting to the Director-General had been set up, comprising senior representatives of Headquarters entities to provide overall guidance; Mr. McKintyre himself would supervise a working group with a limited number of full-time staff to ensure comprehensive Secretariat support.

19. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 3.

AGENDA ITEM 22

Consideration of the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1987 (E/1987/105, E/1987/L.28)

20. The PRESIDENT said that he would take it, if he heard no objection, that the Council wished to grant the request contained in document E/1987/105 for the consideration of the additional question of the Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees under item 5 of the provisional agenda for the second regular session.

It was so decided (decision 1987/158).

21. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Council), referring to the draft provisional agenda contained in the note by the Secretariat (E/1987/L.28), said that an additional item entitled "Public administration and finance" should be added as item 19 of the provisional agenda for the second regular session.

22. He cautioned that the Council should have no illusion that documents would be expeditiously processed, in view of the time-limits: of the 52 documents for a session comprising essentially 11 working days, with only 58 meetings scheduled, 30 documents were still not ready; 20 of those had not yet even been sub-

mitted to the Secretariat, and of the 20, 13 involved meetings of intergovernmental bodies which had not yet taken place. Unfortunately, the emphasis in cutbacks seemed to be entirely on Secretariat services and not on documents, which were more expensive than any meeting service.

23. In connection with item 8 (Regional co-operation), he said that the joint report on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa should be submitted directly to the General Assembly. On item 12 (Population questions), he suggested that there was no need to submit a summary to the second regular session. On item 13 (Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance), he suggested that the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator should submit an oral report first and then a written report to the General Assembly. He also stressed that there would be no flexibility in the provision of services.

24. Mr. EL GHOUAYEL (Observer for Tunisia) said he reserved his country's position on the matter of complaints relating to the services and documents that would be available in Geneva.

25. Mr. ZVEZDIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said he wanted to know why so many documents were not ready and would not be ready before the second regular session.

26. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Council) replied that many of the reports would be due from bodies that still had not met. There were some cases of late submission and some reports by the Secretary-General were still outstanding because of the need for consultation with other bodies. There were also human factors, including changes within the Secretariat.

27. Mr. BARNETT (Jamaica) asked whether there might be no documents at all for certain items for the second regular session.

28. Mr. KHALIKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported the suggestion by the Group of 77 (see para. 4 above) that the in-depth study should not be discussed at the Council's second regular session, but rather that the Special Commission should report on the results of its fourth session at the resumed second regular session of the Council.

29. Mr. DIECKMANN (Federal Republic of Germany) said he could support the deferring of item 4 (In-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields) of the draft provisional agenda (E/1987/L.28) to the resumed second regular session but was against the suggestion of the Group of 77 not to discuss an item that was in fact on the agenda. He wondered why there should be a second regular session at all if items were deleted from its agenda.

30. Mr. JØNCK (Denmark) suggested that the Bureau of the Council should consider handling item 15 (International co-operation and co-ordination within the United Nations system) more efficiently by replacing the unfocused debate with a structured debate and by using a thematic approach.

31. Mr. SEVAN (Secretary of the Council), replying to the representative of Jamaica, said that it was too early to say whether there might be no documentation at all for certain items and reminded him of the rule that documents must be available six weeks in advance in order to be discussed.

32. Replying to the representative of Denmark, he said that the problem of item 15 was that no one knew which documents would be available and when.

33. Mr. ZVEZDIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that, if a report could not be discussed unless it was available at least six weeks in advance, the Secretariat must be urged to improve its work so that the documentation for the second regular session could be ready on time. To say that some documents were not ready because of the "human factor" was tantamount to saying that the Secretariat was not efficient enough.

34. Mr. ANDRADE DÍAZ-DURÁN (Observer for Guatemala), referring to his statement on behalf of the Group of 77 (see para. 4 above) concerning item 4 of the draft provisional agenda for the second regular session, said that the Chairman of the Special Commission would easily be able to report to the Council on his consultations and contacts with intergovernmental bodies.

35. Mr. EL GHOUAYEL (Observer for Tunisia) said that he had no objection to the suggestion of the previous speaker but thought that the Chairman of the Special Commission could inform the Council at the second regular session about his contacts without prejudging his relations with the relevant bodies. A report could then be submitted to the resumed session. What was the legal rule? Must the Chairman of the Special Commission report to the Commission before reporting to the Council?

36. Mr. SHAABAN (Egypt) said that as a legal point it was true that the report of the Special Commission must first be approved by the Commission, but the Chairman of the Commission could report on informal consultations without prior approval. To drop an item from the agenda would require another decision, however.

37. Mr. DE CLERCK (Belgium) said he agreed with the previous speaker that an item could not be dropped from the agenda without revising the decision that put it there. Turning to the point raised by the observer for Guatemala on behalf of the Group of 77, he said that if there was nothing substantive to discuss there would simply be no discussion; if, however, the Chairman of the Special Commission wanted to inform the Council about his informal contacts, that would be very useful.

38. Mr. VALDEZ (Peru) said that the resumed second regular session was a continuation of the session and it was impossible simply to leave matters in abeyance. The Council's role was different from that of the specialized agencies and it needed full information in order to make proper assessments.

39. Mr. ANDRADE DÍAZ-DURÁN (Observer for Guatemala) said that the Group of 77 was flexible but required rules and clarity. He requested a suspension of the meeting for informal consultations.

The meeting was suspended at 4.40 p.m. and resumed at 5.10 p.m.

40. Mr. ANDRADE DÍAZ-DURÁN (Observer for Guatemala), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the Group had no objection to keeping item 4 on the draft provisional agenda, with the understanding that the report on the in-depth study would be submitted to the Special Commission for its consideration in September, and that substantive discussion on that item would then take place. That solution was acceptable

from a legal point of view, because the Council's meetings in New York in September constituted a resumption of the second regular session to be held at Geneva.

41. Mr. JØNCK (Denmark) said that the Chairman of the Special Commission would be able to report on his contacts to the Special Commission in September.

42. Mr. LICHTINGER (Observer for Mexico) said that the report should not be issued without the prior consideration and approval of the Special Commission. Item 4 should be deferred until the resumed second regular session in September in order to avoid duplication and reduce costs.

43. Mr. OTOBO (Nigeria), supported by Mr. ZVEZDIN (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and Mr. SHAABAN (Egypt), proposed that item 4 of the draft provisional agenda should be taken up at the resumed second regular session in September.

It was so decided.

44. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to approve the draft provisional agenda and suggested organization of work contained in the note by the Secretariat (E/1987/L.28, sects. I and II), as orally revised during the course of the meeting.

It was so decided (decision 1987/157).

45. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council decided to consider at its second regular session of 1987, under item 5 of the provisional agenda, the question of the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

It was so decided (decision 1987/158).

46. The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council decided to authorize the Secretary-General to transmit directly to the General Assembly at its forty-second session the joint report of UNIDO and ECA on the Industrial Development Decade for Africa.

It was so decided (decision 1987/159).

47. The PRESIDENT said that the Council had concluded its consideration of agenda item 22.

Closure of the session

48. The PRESIDENT, after the customary exchange of courtesies, declared the first regular session of 1987 of the Economic and Social Council closed.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.

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